

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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THE LEAGUE WOMEN VOTERS NNESOTA

550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417

JUNE 1996



Calendar

75 Years -- A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change

1919 June 19-20 - LWVMN Board Retreat, Meetings at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center A VOICE 25 - BOARD MEMO/PRESIDENTS' MAILING prepared and mailed no later than Friday, June FOR CITIZENS, 28th to local Leagues A FORCE 26 - LWVMN Voter Service Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m., LWVMN office FOR CHANGE 29 - LWVMN State Spending Committee Meeting; 9:00-noon; LWVMN office 1994 2 - Deadline for VOTER articles to editor Carolyn Cushing July - Deadline for full payment of PMP to LWVMN for 5% discount 4-5 - Holiday, LWVMN office closed 10 - LWVMN Executive Committee Meeting, only if necessary 15 - LWVMN Action Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m., MWB, lower level 17 - Mini-Mailing to local Leagues, only if necessary 20 - State Spending Study Committee Meeting; LWVMN, 9:00-noon 25 - CMAL Board Meeting; MWB; 9:30 a.m.

August

- 1 Deadlines for Applications for Congressional Debates from local Leagues
- 14 LWVMN/EF Board Meetings, 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m., MWB; VOTER deadline
- 19 BOARD MEMO/PRESIDENTS' MAILING TO local League Presidents
 - Deadline for Voter Guide '96 orders for local Leagues



ENCLOSURES

(included in this mailing with the BOARD MEMO; sent to LL Presidents and DPM subscribers)

For Leagues not represented at LWVMN Council Meeting:

- ➤ Portfolio Updates and Outlook Calendar for 1996-97
- > Presidents' Planning Calendar
- LWVMN Board of Directors list for 1996-97

For all Local Leagues:

- Local League Presidents' List for 1996-97/Matlock
- ➤ Board Memo/DPM subscription form/Matlock
- > Program for Action, 1995-97/ Frisch
- LWVMN Action Guidelines for Local Leagues/Frisch
- LWVMN Coalition Guidelines for Local Leagues/Frisch
- Legislative Intern Application/Frisch
- Ten Minute Activist form/Frisch
- ➤ Capitol Letter subscription form/Frisch

- Minnesota Compact information and response form/Borgen, Duffy
- Candidate Forum Moderators List, updated/Duffy
- Candidate Criteria for the 1996 Congressional Debates/Duffy, McCoy
- > Voter Guide '96 order form/Duffy
- Election '96 Pop Quiz/Duffy, Kargas
- ➤ Go Vote!--League and Wal-Mart Project/LWV of Arkansas



BOUQUETS TO:

- Diane Gibson for winning the Hope Washburn Award for outstanding service at the state League.
- Phyllis Letendre for winning the Peggy Thompson Award for outstanding contributions to CMAL.
- Judy Covey for a great workshop on the curriculum at Convention standing room only.
- Mary Lewis Grow for persuading the national league to adopt an action motion in favor of the proposed student pledge against gun violence in schools.
- Bev McKinnell for her election to a third term on the national board.
- Peggy Lucas for her national league grassroots leadership award.
- All of you who worked to enable Minnesota to win a membership growth award at the National Convention. Whatever you did, do it again! Congratulations.



STATE BOARD HAPPENINGS

At its June 20, 1996 Board Meeting your state Board:

- Accepted with regret the resignation of Barbara Flanigan. She will move to an off Board position as Mental Health Chair and work on the revision of *Serving Minnesota's Mentally Ill*.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Harriette Burkhalter from the Nominating Committee. Harriette
- and Jack are retiring to Arizona, but will return to their Minnesota farm in the summer.
- Approved the appointment of Diane Gibson to the Board as chair of the Technology Committee and of Nancy Witta to the Nominating Committee.
- Approved the consensus questions for the state spending study.
- · Adopted candidate criteria for Congressional debates.
- Approved the recommendation of the Action Committee to take action opposing the recall amendment proposed for the state constitution. (Watch for further information this summer in Board Memos and the VOTER)
- Approved adding LWVMN/EF board member names and leagues (not addresses) to the Home Page.



(Anne Borgen, 1811 Pennsylvania Ave. N., Golden Valley, 55427 612/545-7076)

NATIONAL CONVENTION

What role can we play in Making Democracy Work? That is the challenge delegates brought home from Convention '96. We celebrated the past 75 years ... debated the present adopted a special issue for emphasis for 1996-98. Making Democracy Work, (formerly The Initiative to Renew Democracy) is a campaign to make government more responsive to citizens and to build citizen participation and confidence in government.

I think that much of what we already do both in education and advocacy can fit under the umbrella of this campaign. A common theme may increase visibility and effectiveness. The national office will be sending a Getting Started Kit in July with suggestions for how such a project might begin in your community.

The delegates amended the budget to increase the lobbyist staff by two ...taking \$50,000 from the member services and \$50,000 from the direct mail campaign for contributions/membership budgets. A \$10 rebate in PMP for locally recruited college student members also passed. The bylaws were amended to drop the provisional league status in favor of state units until a new league can stand alone.

RETREAT

On June 19th the State Board and representatives of 24 local leagues and CMAL shared an afternoon at the Mt. Olivet Retreat Center. It was an opportunity to share information, ideas and comradeship that I hope you all enjoyed as much as I did.

Calendar and portfolio planning material is included in this mailing for those of you who were unable to attend the retreat. Please scan all of it ...keep what you need and will use ... then toss or recycle the rest! Please call if you have questions about any of it.

AWARDS

Congratulations to Phyllis Letendre, winner of the Peggy Thompson Award for service to CMAL and to Diane Gibson, winner of the Hope Washburn Award for service to the state league. Each of them has brought enthusiasm and skill to their volunteer projects ... great for the League and even better for the community we serve.

MINNESOTA COMPACT

The Minnesota Compact Coalition project that we have been talking about all spring will fit nicely under the civic journalism part of Making Democracy Work. Enclosed in this mailing is the latest material on the Compact and also a request to serve as convenors for local discussion groups. This is a one evening commitment in which groups are asked to watch and discuss a senatorial candidate debate in late October either ours on WCCO (date still to be decided by the TV station) or KTCA's on October 25. This group can be made up of anyone you like ...friends, family, work, church, League. The idea is to give candidates and the media the message that citizens are interested in issues beyond sound bites. This is strictly a nonpartisan project and we hope citizens of every point of view will participate. The Humphrey Institute is doing the mailing and record keeping for this project so your forms go to them.



ACTION

(Carol Frisch, 7025 Comanche Ct., Edina, 55439 612/829-0604)

Enclosed are five action tools that you will want to keep handy for decision making on action issues and to invite action involvement from members. *Program for Action for 1995-97*, is a listing of LWVUS and LWVMN positions and includes a history of state action on issues. Cost for extra copies is \$4.00 each plus postage and handling. The LWVMN Action Guidelines for Local Leagues and Coalition Guidelines for Local Leagues are critical references that correlate with *Portfolio Updates*. The Ten Minute Activist, Intern Application and *Capitol Letter* subscription forms are for your promotion of these opportunities at fall meetings. Look for action articles in the summer Minnesota *Voter* which may also spark ideas for local action.

Recall Amendment: Look for further information this summer and fall about this complicated subject. The LWVMN Board at its June 20th Meeting decided to actively oppose this constitutional amendment. The Action Committee will undoubtedly be discussing this item at its June 15th meeting. Susan Weisbrod, LWV of St. Croix Valley, and Sara Schaefer, LWV of ROMAFH, are preparing background materials for local Leagues and for the summer *Voter*.



VOTER SERVICE

(Judy Duffy, 505 Lake, Birchwood, 55110 612/429-9703)

LWVMN's plans for this election season are well outlined in the Portfolio Updates, which your League either received at the June 19th LWVMN Council and Retreat or is enclosed with the mailing to your local League President. *The Road to Election Day* video and guide, Congressional/Legislative Debates, V.I.P.(Voter Information Packets), *Voter Guide '96*, U.S. Senate Debate, Voter Hotline, Minnesota E-Democracy, and the Minnesota Compact Coalition projects are summarized.

There are a few things you should note. The deadline for Congressional/Legislative Candidate Forum proposals is August I, 1996. The deadline for *Voter Guide '96* orders is August 19th; see the order form enclosed with this mailing. An updated Candidate Forum Moderators list is enclosed with the Presidents' Mailing.

LWV of Arkansas/Go Vote!

Enclosed in the Presidents' Mailing is a letter from, LWV of Arkansas regarding their League's joing "Get Out the Vote" project with Wal-Mart. If you have a Wal-Mart store in your community, please consider participating in this project the week of September 14 - 21.

In making plans for your voter service projects, don't forget the opportunity to make money for your League and do a great service to voters by providing volunteers to staff the LWVMN/WCCO-TV Election Hotline before the Primary Election (probable) and before the General Election. When we have the project details worked out, we will send you information immediately.

For Your Information

You are cordially invited to a very special program and reception to be held Friday, July 12th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Women's Building. Allison Phillips, a seventh grader at Webster Open School in Minneapolis, will give her performance based on Clara Hampson Ueland, who was the first President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Allison competed in an annual competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. This competition requires students to enact an historical theme; this year's theme was "Taking a Stand," Allison won first prize in Minnesota and placed fourth in Washington, DC. If you would like to attend the performance, please R.S.V.P. to the LWVMN office by Wednesday, July 10th.



BOARD MEMO

TO:

Local League Presidents and Board Members

FROM: Linda Satorius, Field Service Chair

RE:

Board Memo and DPM subscriptions for 1996-97

DATE: June 24, 1996

It's time to order your League's subscriptions for Board Memos and DPMs. As local League President, you do not need to order the Board Memo for yourself; however, each local League will receive only two copies of the Board Memo. One is for the use of the President and one will be included in the Presidents' mailing and is to be separated and distributed to other Board members. This is a very important League resource. Please consider entering a subscription for each Board member. As President, you will receive a President's Mailing automatically. Co-Presidents will also receive a President's Mailing. Note that Board Memo used to be mailed first class to Presidents and was followed by a third class Presidents' Mailing; these have been combined into one first class mailing to Presidents.

Please list all subscriptions for Board Memo and Duplicate President's Mailing on the spaces below and return the form to the LWVMN office, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 no later than July 31, 1996.

Board Memo subscriptions cost \$7.50 year for six issues mailed lst class directly to the subscriber's home. The Duplicate President's Mailing, consisting of Board Memo, selected enclosures and one complimentary copy of each new LWVMN publication, costs \$15/year for six issues mailed 3rd class directly to the subscriber.

Subscriptions for 1996-97:

LWV of		
Total number of Board Memos ordered x \$7.50 = \$		
Total number of additional DPMs ordered x \$15 = \$	t the second sec	
Check # in the amount of \$ is enclosed.	(Please circle either BM or DF	PM)
Name & Address:	BM	DPM
Name & Address:	BM	DPM
Name & Address:	BM	DPM
Name & Address:	BM	DPM
Name & Address:	BM	DPM
Name & Address	BM	DPM



Program for Action

1995-97

A Summary of Positions of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota

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INTRODUCTION

To the League of Women Voters, *Program* means those issues chosen by the members for study and action. At each level of the League--national, state or local--Program includes items adopted for current study, and carefully worded, study-based consensus positions which lead to action.

State Program is selected by League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN) members in individual units through proposals to their local boards of directors, who send the proposals to the state Board. The state Board then formulates a recommended Program of old, new and/or amended items consisting of those most frequently mentioned. All items, whether recommended or not, may be discussed, amended and adopted or rejected at the biennial state Convention.

Following adoption of the Program, research committees are formed to prepare study information on new items. In small units and at large meetings, members weigh the pros and cons of issues to reach consensus on each study item. The state Board receives the consensus reports from the local Leagues, determines areas of agreement, and formulates position statements. Only after consensus is reached and a position is formed can League take action. The state Board also evaluates specific legislation and decides what action should be taken. There are two kinds of action: 1) developing public support for League positions; 2) supporting specific measures and policies which promote a League position or opposing those which threaten it. The process works similarly for the Council of Metropolitan Leagues (CMAL), except that the Program items have regional significance and are chosen and studied by members in the metropolitan area.

Leagues at all levels may "concur" with a position of another League either within Minnesota or in another state. A possible concurrence study is considered at state Convention in the same manner as any other program item. Study materials developed for the original study may be used and are supplemented by the committee overseeing the concurrence study. The LWVMN position on Prevention of Violence, for example, was originally adopted by the LWV-Minneapolis and concurred with by Leagues throughout the state.

Included in this booklet are summaries of the 1995-97 Programs of the LWVMN, of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), and of the CMAL, which consists of the local Leagues in the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. For each LWVMN Program item on which a position has been reached, you will find:

- a summary of the position, along with a brief statement of the relevant LWVUS position, if there is one (all in boldface);
- details of the LWVMN position, including the date when consensus was reached on each section; and
- a history of League and governmental action on the topic.

LWVMN positions have been grouped according to LWVUS classifications: Social Policy, Natural Resources and Government. Exceptions to these groups are Education and Criminal Justice, which LWVMN retains as separate categories. To emphasize the fact that the state League often acts on national positions, summary statements of LWVUS positions have been included where appropriate. For more complete information on the Program of the League of Women Voters of the United States, the reader should see *Impact on Issues*, 1994-96 (Publication No. 386, LWVUS, 1730 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, \$5.00 prepaid).

League members throughout the state promote public support for positions by talking with legislators and community leaders; attending precinct caucuses and participating in the political process; and using the media, public meetings and personal contacts to tell their story. Local Leagues may take action themselves if the action is consistent with national, state and/or CMAL positions; their membership is informed and in general agreement; and, when the action affects other Leagues, they confer prior to taking action.

The state Board takes official action in the name of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. This action may consist of writing letters, personal lobbying of members of the Legislature or executive agencies, testimony at legislative hearings, holding press conferences, or any other measure deemed useful by the Board. Individual Leaguers speak for themselves only and not as League members unless directed to do so by state, national or local League boards.

The League of Women Voters strongly endorses citizen involvement in the political process. It encourages League members to participate in the political party of their choice. The League itself is nonpartisan; LWV, as an organization, does not support candidates or political parties. State Board members are restricted to low-level partisan political activities and may not run for party-designated public office.

LEAGUE PRINCIPLES

In addition to the items adopted for LWVUS and LWVMN Programs, League Principles may be the basis for state and local League actions. The Principles have served two functions according to LWVUS Bylaws: 1) as authorization for adoption of national, state and local program, and 2) as a basis for taking action at the national, state and local levels. Action to implement the Principles is authorized by the appropriate League board once it determines that member understanding and agreement exist and that the action is appropriate.

- The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.
- The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that effect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.
- The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Program Adopted by League of Women Voters of Minnesota

I. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Judiciary: Support of a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all.

Corrections: Support of a correctional system responsive to the needs of the individual offender and of society. Support of sentencing decisions based on circumstances in relation to the crime, the offender and the effect on public safety, made by the judge within legislative guidelines.

II. EDUCATION

Equal Opportunity: Support of increased state responsibility in creating equal public educational opportunities for all Minnesota children through measures to correct racial imbalance and ensure adequate financing of public schools.

Financing of Education: All Minnesota children should have equal access to a good public education. State funding for education should be at a level that makes programs of comparable substance and quality available to all. A student's access to a good education should not depend on the wealth of his or her school district.

Collective Bargaining and Tenure: Support of improvements in the collective bargaining and tenure laws of the state as they apply to K-12 teachers only.

Library Funding: Support for increased and restructured funding for public libraries.

III. GOVERNMENT

Citizen Rights: Support of improvements in election laws regulating election procedures, voting and school district elections. Support of improvements in election laws regulating campaign practices.

Organization of Government: Support of improved structure and procedures for the Minnesota
Legislature and Executive Branch; support of an improved process for amending the Minnesota
Constitution; support of apportionment based substantially on population of congressional districts and of all elected state and local governmental bodies.

Initiative, Referendum and Recall: Support of the continuation of legislative initiative and compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendments; opposition to most forms of voter initiative and referendum of statutes; opposition to recall by

voters of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers; support of strict procedural limits on any process of initiative, referendum or recall.

Financing State Government: Support of a balanced and diversified revenue system which relies on broad-based taxes and user fees. Support of an evaluation of all individual revenue sources to determine if it is competitive with other states, efficient, equitable, progressive, reliable, responsive and simple. Support of a broad-based sales tax with exemptions for essential items. Support of an equitable property tax as the primary source of financing services provided by local governments and a partial funding for education. Support of a corporation franchise tax competitive with other states. Support of achieving social goals through open and visible expenditures rather than by granting deductions, exclusions and credits. Support of the principle that state legislation mandating local government action should identify sources of revenue. Support of long-term financial management, budget projections and budget reserve.

LWVMN voted to adopt a new study of State Government Spending at the 1995 state convention.

Firearms: Action to support restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in the state of Minnesota. Opposition to an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution granting an individual right to bear arms. Support for the ability of local municipalities to regulate ownership and possession of firearms and ammunition more strictly than state law allows.

IV. NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Resources: Support of a state role in the preservation and management of Minnesota's water resources through protection, allocation, conservation, pricing and interbasin transfer policies protective of Minnesota's current and future needs.

Solid Waste: Support of measures to reduce generation of solid waste.

Land Use: Support of an overall land use plan with maximum cooperation and implementation at the regional and local levels, with state help in developing and exercising land use management, with opportunity for maximum local decision making, and with regional planning and regulation for matters of more than local concern.

V. SOCIAL POLICY

Equal Opportunity: Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons. Support of administrative enforcement of antidiscrimination laws. Support of state responsibility for and responsiveness to Indian citizens.

FAMILY ISSUES

Family Violence: Support for improved procedures for agencies dealing with family violence; support for improved services for the victims.

Child Support: Support of stricter enforcement of court-ordered child support payments.

Child Protection: Support of adequate staffing and resources for child protection services.

Child Health: Support access to comprehensive prenatal and child health care.

Child Care: Support of coordinated public policies and funding to ensure safe, affordable, quality child care throughout the state.

Teen Pregnancy: Support prevention efforts to lower the rate of teenage pregnancy.

Housing: Support an active state role in providing long-term decent and affordable housing for very low-, low-, and moderate-income households. Support incentives to local units of government to promote a mix of housing opportunities including home ownership and rental housing for people of all ages with very low-, low-, and moderate-incomes. Support of disincentives to local units of government that do not promote a mix of housing opportunities.

Mental Health: Support of a comprehensive and coordinated system of programs and services for mentally ill adults and emotionally disturbed children and adolescents (hereafter referred to as "persons with mental illness"). Priority should be given to persons with serious and persistent mental illness and/or acute mental illness. Minnesota public policy and funding should sustain an array of community-based services which are available and accessible to persons with mental illness. Administration of that policy should provide clients with appropriate and adequate services.

Violence Prevention: Support for violence prevention programs in Minnesota.

Program Adopted by League of Women Voters of the United States

I. GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive; that has a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution; that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making; that provides sound agricultural policy; and that preserves public health and safety through gun control measures.

Agricultural Policy: Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

Citizen Rights:

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation: Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties: Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices: Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency: Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation: Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process:

Apportionment: Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance: Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Election of the President: Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the electoral college; support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections.

Fiscal Policy: Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable

tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax; promote responsible deficit policies; support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Gun Control: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semiautomatic weapons.

Voting Rights: Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

II. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by cooperating with other nations, strengthening international organizations, fostering long-term development, negotiating arms control measures and encouraging the successful resolution of conflicts through nonmilitary means.

Arms Control: Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending: Work to limit reliance on military force; examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

Trade: Support systematic reduction of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers and support broad long-range presidential authority to negotiate trade agreements.

United Nations: Support measures to strengthen the United Nations, in recognition of the need for cooperation among nations in an interdependent world.

US Relations with Developing Countries: Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

III. NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

Resource Management: Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control: Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with the maximum protection of the public health and environment. Public Participation: Promote public understanding and participation in decision-making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

IV. SOCIAL POLICY

Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all, achieve universal health care coverage at reasonable cost, promote the well being of children and combat discrimination, poverty and violence.

Child Care: Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk: Support policies and programs that promote the well being, development and safety of children.

Equality of Opportunity: Support equal access to education, employment and housing. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Health Care: Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Meeting Basic Human Needs: Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Urban Policy: Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Violence Prevention: Support violence prevention programs in all communities.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that government policy, programs and performance must meet these criteria:

- · competent personnel with clear responsibilities;
- coordination among agencies and levels of government;
- adequate financing;
- · effective enforcement;
- · well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

For more complete information on the Program of LWVUS, see Impact on Issues, 1994-96 (Publication No. 386, LWVUS, 1730 M St. NW, Washington DC 20036, \$5.00 plus postage and handling).

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

JUDICIARY

LWVMN Position: Support of a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all.

Details

Support of:

- administrative reforms that expedite justice:
 establishment of a unified court system, an intermediate
 appellate court, and procedures to strengthen and
 streamline judicial administration; additional staff for
 prosecution, public defenders and legal services when
 such needs are established; statewide guidelines on
 bail-fixing process; standardization of forms and
 procedures; use of technology in administration; use of
 juries in civil cases only by request.
- methods to improve judicial quality: a nonpartisan selection with a commission to propose names for all appointments to the bench; mandatory training for all judges; adequate salary increases for judges and related revision of retirement benefits.
- procedural reforms that ensure individual rights and access to due process of law: reform of bail process to recognize methods other than monetary to ensure appearance of accused at trial; strict guarantees to ensure protection of the defendant and society in the use of plea bargaining; sentencing alternatives; methods to reduce disparity in sentencing; no-fault divorce procedure using irremediable differences as grounds for dissolution; guarantees to witnesses in grand jury proceedings re: counsel in proceedings, availability of information to defense counsel and restrictions on waiving immunity in later trials; retention of age 18 for persons under jurisdiction of juvenile court; mandatory first appearance in juvenile court for all persons under jurisdiction of such court; requirement for formal transcript of commitment hearings with a rule or regulation protecting privacy of such records.
- the development of community alternatives as an adjunct to the judicial system: alternatives for sentencing; alternatives for handling behavior now defined as "status offenses" and "social (or victimless) crimes." (1973)

CORRECTIONS

LWVMN Position: Support of a correctional system responsive to the needs of the individual offender and of society. Support of sentencing decisions based on circumstances in relation to the crime, the offender and the effect on public safety, made by the judge within legislative guidelines.

Adult Corrections Position Details

Support of:

- correctional options which will protect society from the offender.
- provision for a continuum of correctional options available according to the needs of the individual offender. The continuum should range from maximum security to facilities and services in the community.
- treatment and rehabilitative programs for all offenders.
 Among the programs should be those of mental health, education, job preparation, employment assistance and counseling. There should be appropriate incentives to encourage offender participation in programs.
- recognition of the offender as an individual with basic human rights commensurate with constitutional rights except as necessary for the protection of offenders and society. These rights include, but are not limited to, healthful conditions and due process.
- ongoing programs of evaluation and research as an aid in setting program priorities. Included within the scope of the program are need identification, data collection and retrievability, and the use of scientific methods in designing the evaluation plan.
- education programs aimed at increasing citizen knowledge and awareness of all facets of corrections.
- up-to-date personnel procedures including, but not limited to, training, compensations plans, grievance procedures. (1975)

Juvenile Justice Position Details

Support of:

- a program of evaluation of the juvenile justice system in Minnesota.
- continual evaluation of all existing programs for juveniles and their families funded and/or used by public agencies.
- the availability of a complete continuum of services for troubled, delinquent, abused and neglected youth and their families. This includes quality community-based corrections in all geographic areas as an alternative to the traditional institutional setting in an attempt to assure the most successful rehabilitation and prevent further offenses. It does not deny the value of secure institutional treatment for some. We define quality as including proper supervision, standards, inspections and screening of residents.
- maximum effort directed toward finding adequate alternatives to detention, juvenile court processes and institutionalization.
- diversion of juveniles to community alternatives from the formal judicial process at all levels.

- the consideration of confidentiality in efforts to coordinate services for juveniles.
- constitutional protections for juveniles equal to those for adults, including due process of law, and protection from invasion of privacy and unwarranted removal from their families. (1975)

Sentencing Position Details

Support of:

- a presumptive sentencing model, but not indeterminate sentencing, the presumptive sentencing model to be fixed by administrative or judicial staff.
- consideration of mitigating and/or aggravating circumstances.
- the use of diversion and contracts between offenders and authorities.
- sentencing based on both the seriousness of the crime and the needs of the offender.
- · sentencing taking into consideration:
 - ⇒ the need for drug counseling;
 - ⇒ whether the offender has a marketable skill;
 - ⇒ academic training of the offender;
 - ⇒ need for psychiatric treatment;
 - ⇒ restitution when appropriate;
 - ⇒ the availability of a residence and/or employment;
 - ⇒ resolution of the causative situation.

No consensus was reached on plea bargaining, sentence length, good time, or determinate or legislatively-fixed models. (1976)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Judiciary: In 1971-72 Local Leagues observed the various levels of the Minnesota court system and studied their constitutional and statutory requirements. Consensus was reached in March 1973. In 1982 the Legislature passed a proposed constitutional amendment for a new state court of appeals. League lobbied successfully for the passage of this amendment, and enabling legislation was passed in 1983. League action continues to emphasize court unification, alternatives for handling behavior now defined as "status offenses" and "social (or victimless) crimes," guarantees of protection to witnesses in grand jury proceedings, and support of community alternatives as an adjunct to the judiciary system.

Corrections: In 1973-74 League examined correctional institutions, programs and personnel on the local, county and state levels. The adult corrections consensus and concurrence with the consensus of the LWV of Minneapolis on juvenile corrections were reached in the spring of 1975. After the 1981 state Convention passed a call to action urging immediate funding for a new Minnesota Correctional Institution for Women, League lobbied in

support of it during the 1983 legislative session, and a bonding bill was passed providing for funding of a new facility.

LWVMN members have lobbied in favor of uniform standards and equal treatment of prisoners in all county jails. They have

also lobbied for support of the mutual agreement program, a greater use of community corrections, frequent and regular evaluations, drug education programs, consideration of physical or psychological disorders when specifying treatment or work expectations, the concept of inmate rights, preventive programs for juveniles and corrective training.

Sentencing: Aware that sentencing was likely to be an issue in the 1977 Legislature, the LWVMN Corrections Committee asked for a mini-study and consensus on sentencing in fall 1976. Members supported presumptive sentencing, under which the Legislature would set minimum and maximum outer limits and a "presumed" sentence somewhere in between. The judge could vary the sentence within the limits, based on mitigating or aggravating circumstances defined by the Legislature.

Committee members monitored the progress of bills on determinate sentencing during the 1976-77 legislative session, while the Legislature continued to study the matter before recommending changes in Minnesota's indeterminate system. The 1978 Legislature passed a "guideline" determinate sentencing law which calls for a specified sentence based on the crime, allowing a 15% variance. The law created a ten-member commission appointed by the Governor to set the guidelines which became effective in July 1980. The League testified in favor of those portions of this law consistent with our position and did not support or oppose the rest of the provisions.

EDUCATION

(See Social Policy section for additional positions.)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

LWVMN Position: Support of increased state responsibility in creating equal public educational opportunities for all Minnesota children through measures to correct racial imbalance.

Details

 Support of correction of racial imbalance in the schools. The state should have the power to investigate, to set and enforce standards, and to give extra financial help to achieve these standards. (1967)

FINANCING OF EDUCATION

LWVMN Position: All Minnesota children should have equal access to a good public education. State funding for education should be at a level that makes programs of comparable substance and quality available to all. A student's access to a good education should not depend on the wealth of his or her school district.

Details

Support of:

- the concept of the foundation formula program (general education revenue). Any revisions in the current education financing system should support:
 - ⇒ provision of adequate funding to meet the real costs of education (1983); until the State of Minnesota can ensure consistent and adequate funding of education throughout the state, the LWVMN supports the continuation of local excess referendum levies to raise additional money from property taxes; (1991)
 - ⇒ state funding of the following cost differences between students: pupil unit weighting, poverty, special education for various handicapping conditions, gifted and language differences (ESL and LEP); (1991)
 - ⇒ state funding of the following cost differences between school districts: scarcity, training and experience, desegregation and transportation; (1991)
 - ⇒ using the income tax as the mainstay of school funding; (1983)
 - ⇒ encouragement of financial efficiencies; (1983)
 - ⇒ requiring school districts to raise money from property taxes for building construction and debt service with local bond referendum levies. Such expenditures must be approved by the state Department of Education; (1991)
 - ⇒ allowing local districts to raise a limited amount of additional funds for supplemental programs through local levies, to maintain local choice and ensure local accountability; (1983)
 - ⇒ reorganization of school districts with extremely low enrollments; (1983)
 - ⇒ the gradual phasing out of supplemental revenue; (1991)
 - ⇒ maintaining most social and recreational services now offered at schools but seek alternative funding sources for many. (1983)

Opposition to:

- continuation of the current Minnesota private school tuition tax deduction; (1983)
- state funding of cost of living differences between districts. (1991)

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND TENURE

LWVMN Position: Support of improvements in the collective bargaining and tenure laws of the state as they apply to K-12 teachers only.

Details

Support of:

- collective bargaining for teachers, with changes in Minnesota's collective bargaining law to:
 - ⇒ require that teacher bargaining agents and school boards publish first offers and all subsequent written offers during the negotiations.
 - ⇒ require that arbitrators hearing teacher contracts know school law and procedures.
 - ⇒ allow a limited number of school board bargaining strategy sessions that are closed to the public.
- the present bargaining law provision that allows parties to negotiations in each district to determine for themselves which items they consider negotiable. If necessary, the district court would make the final decision.
- the school board as the representative of the public in the negotiation process. Neither parent-community advisory committees nor representatives on the negotiation team should be required by the state.
- Tenure/Continuing Contract laws for teachers, with changes in the current state law to:
 - require periodic review and evaluation of tenured teachers' performance, leading to remedial help when indicated.
 - ⇒ retain teacher probationary periods, but lengthen the probation period of Continuing Contract teachers. (Continuing Contract does not apply to first class cities.)
 - ⇒ require school boards to consider factors in addition to order of employment when they must make staff dismissals due to reduction of positions. Such factors include recent teaching experience in the field of certification, program needs of the district, and special expertise of the individual faculty member.
- retention of state laws defining fair dismissal procedures. (1978)

LWVMN does not support extension of the right to strike.

LWVMN opposes *mandatory* negotiation of procedures for reducing staff.

LIBRARY FUNDING

LWVMN Position: Support for increased and restructured funding for public libraries.

Details

Support of:

- increased funding of Minnesota public libraries by means of a combination of substantial local funding, an increase in state funding, and a moderate increase in special-purpose federal funding. LWVMN considers the 1978 funding proportions--85% local government, 6% other local funds, 6% state, 3% federal--to be inequitable in that funding depends predominantly on the local property tax.
- substantial local funding (more than the 30% proposed by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) but less than the current 91%), in the belief that local control ensures sensitivity to local needs.
- an increased level and greater proportion of state funding for public libraries (but not to the 50% proposed by NCLIS), believing that public libraries, like public schools, share significantly in the education of the state's citizens.
- an increased level and moderately increased proportion of federal funding for public libraries (but less than the 20% proposed by NCLIS).
- distribution of state and federal funds to Minnesota public library systems according to a formula based largely on population, but also taking into account square miles of area served and the inverse of assessed adjusted valuation, so as to achieve the most equitable and satisfactory distribution of funds.
- four goals of the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service, ranked as follows: (1) making services accessible to all citizens; (2) fostering a system of shared resources; (3) developing multi-county regional systems; (4) establishing libraries in areas without them.
- the sharing of resources; using trained and supervised volunteers; and charging fees for time-consuming research and special materials, programs, equipment and services.

LWVMN opposes cutting services and/or hours. (1979)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Equal Opportunity: In 1966, in conjunction with the national study of Human Resources, LWVMN examined equality of opportunity in education in Minnesota. LWVMN supported the consolidation of the state's 850 common school districts (those not having a high school), the State Board of Education's efforts to achieve racial balance, and increased transportation aid to achieve that goal.

In 1980 LWVMN published What's the Score in Minnesota, a project to monitor equality of opportunity for women in athletics in public schools. In 1995 and 1996 LWVMN joined several other organizations in a letter to the Legislature opposing making danceline an interscholastic sport.

LWVMN supported the 1985 legislation which introduced student/parent enrollment choice for 11th and 12th graders, based on the League's support of equal access to education and increased state responsibility in creating equal public educational opportunities. In 1988 we supported expansion of the program statewide and to all students providing there were safeguards to assure compliance with desegregation plans.

In 1993 LWVMN lobbied in support of maintaining measurable standards to determine racial imbalance. LWVMN opposed the wholesale repeal of many education rules and mandates which was proposed during the 1993 session. We urged an interim review to assure that no loss of equality of opportunity resulted. We continued to support human relations training for school staff and programs for health and violence prevention. Legislative rules that we advocated retaining included gender equity in sports and the Inclusive Educational Program Rule which requires each school district to create a plan for multicultural, gender-fair, disability-sensitive curriculum. The League was instrumental in developing the latter rule.

Finance: During the 1971 legislative session, many League positions supported the education finance statute: the shift from local property tax to increased state aid for support of local operating costs; change to use of average daily membership for computing state aids; increased AFDC pupil payments in districts with relatively high proportions of these children; expansion of handicapped aids to include trainable mentally retarded children. Later, a graduated scale of payments as numbers of AFDC students rose, increased support of the cost of educating handicapped students (including the learning disabled), and the formation of the Council on Quality Education were enacted with LWVMN support.

The 1976 consensus enabled LWVMN support of legislation which helped offset the cost of enrollment fluctuation. In 1979, LWVMN, working with a broad-based coalition, lobbied successfully for state aids for gifted and talented students.

Since the 1983 consensus on financing education, LWVMN has closely monitored changes in the school finance formula. We supported the creation of the "training and experience index" as a way of recognizing the cost of mature and highly trained staff. In 1989, we supported expanding the index to apply to all districts.

In 1987, the legislature combined many formerly categorical aids into a "general revenue formula." LWVMN expressed concern that attention to programs such as gifted and talented (which were folded into a "categorical reserve" to be used for one or all of the formerly categorical programs) would be lost without dedicated funds. We have urged local Leagues to monitor the impact of the new formula on local programs.

LWVMN opposed a limited demonstration voucher plan which could be used for private or independent schools because of our concern that use of public money for private K-12 education erodes the financial support of public education. In 1996 the LWVMN actively opposed school vouchers for K-12 education;

the League believes the focus of state resources should be on continuing to improve the system that serves all children.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION (continued)

During the 1989 session LWVMN supported the Alliance for Commitment to Education in their proposal for school funding. We opposed shifting more of the burden for the cost of special education onto the local districts as proposed in the Governor's budget. During the Special Session called in September 1989 to consider property tax reform, LWVMN supported the increased state responsibility for school funding as a way to assure less reliance on local property wealth for school programs. Financing education was restudied in 1991 and the consensus updated. During the 1991 session the LWVMN's goal was to support funding at an adequate level. We also supported supplemental funding to correct racial imbalance. We opposed funding alternative education in non-sectarian schools. In 1992 we supported the American Indian post-secondary grants and the school breakfast program.

Library Funding: In 1985 LWVMN supported increased funding for public libraries in Minnesota and supported the four goals of the Minnesota Long range Plan for library services.

GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, responsive; that has a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution; that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making; that provides sound agriculture policies; and that preserves public health and safety through gun control measures.

I. CITIZEN RIGHTS

LWVUS Position: Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate participation in government decision making. (1974, 1976)

PUBLIC POLICY ON REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES

LWVUS Position: Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. (1983)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Citizen Rights: In 1995 the LWVMN was a member of the Information Access Policy Discussion group which sponsored legislation to make it easier to access information via the rapidly emerging cable and phone line technology.

In 1996 LWVMN was very involved in a debate to continue the dual-track airport planning process so that citizen groups could provide input to the decision process. Legislation to abort the process was successful, despite League efforts.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choice: LWVMN has worked in coalitions to monitor state developments on reproductive choice. Following the July 1989 U. S. Supreme Court decision on

Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, LWVMN participated in a news conference expressing concerns about the effect of restrictions on abortion services and the resulting patchwork of public policy as states enact dissimilar policies. In the fall of 1989 LWVMN became a member of the MN Alliance for Choice, encouraging local League members to help with a Choice Attitude Survey conducted by Planned Parenthood of Minnesota. During the 1990 legislative session LWVMN focused on opposing legislation which would have made abortions illegal in Minnesota. During the 1991 session, League worked with the Alliance for Choice to emphasize preventing unintended pregnancies and reducing the abortion rate in Minnesota as set forth in the Minnesota Women's Consortium's Prevention. Not Prohibition campaign. This campaign was rated as an effective advocacy and educational tool.

The 1992 session offered the opportunity to lobby for the Family Planning Special Services Grant which increased funding to low-income people for abortions.

During the 1993 session LWVMN worked to pass the health clinic access bill assuring the right of unimpeded approach and departure from abortion clinics. In 1994 League's efforts were focused on ensuring that abortion and other reproductive services were included in the health care reform bill and opposing legislation intended to place restrictions on the right to abortion. In 1995 the League was involved in deleting an amendment called the Woman's Right to Know from the Welfare Reform Bill. During the 1996 session the LWVMN closely tracked over 35 anti-choice bills waiting to attach as amendments to other legislation.

ELECTION LAWS

LWVUS Position: Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and abolish the electoral college; support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. (1970, 1976)

LWVMN Position: Support of improvements in election laws regulating election procedures, voting and school district elections.

Details

Support of:

- centralized responsibility in the state government for achieving uniform election procedures and for training election officials. (1961)
- extension of mandatory voter registration prior to election day to cover more voters through inclusion of more municipalities through county-wide registration, or through state-wide registration. (1961)
- extension of election laws to cover school district elections, including uniform, mandatory voter registration. (1972)
- rotation of names of candidates for the same office on ballots. (1972)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Election Laws: LWVMN began studying election laws in 1957. LWVMN supported a bill passed by the 1977 Legislature which provides for the mandatory training of election judges.

In 1973 an Omnibus Registration Bill passed with LWVMN support. This bill centralized responsibility for registration rules and regulations with the Secretary of State, established state-wide registration procedures, required counties to maintain permanent registration lists, and permitted postcard and election day registration. The League supported legislation in 1983 to facilitate absentee voting by requiring the county auditor's office to be open on the Saturday afternoon and Monday evening prior to a primary or general election.

In 1995 the League was asked to provide testimony on elections to the Election Division of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee. The League testified on what is right and wrong with the current election process and the general position on elections and the campaign process. The Growe Commission, an 18-member bipartisan commission of which LWVMN President, Kay Erickson, was a member, published its report on Electoral Reform.

During the 1995 session the League testified in support of appropriating money to produce and mail 3 voter guides: to the caucus, to the primary and to the general election. The League assured the legislators that such guides can be produced in a non-partisan way, in a manner similar to our production of voter guides, and offered to produce the guides. Unfortunately, funding was not forthcoming.

In 1996 the LWVMN supported an unsuccessful attempt to authorize mail ballots in special elections for the increased accessibility to the voting process it provides in elections with traditionally low voter turnout.

School District Election Laws: League members reached consensus in 1972 and lobbied for a bill which passed in 1973, simplifying absentee balloting, requiring rotation of candidates' names on non-partisan ballots, and forbidding election day campaigning or solicitation of votes within 100 feet of a polling place.

Presidential Primary: In 1991 the League supported adding a presidential primary in addition to caucuses and supported a bill to clarify issues of candidate withdrawal to help elections be more "voter friendly." A primary was held in 1992, with League support and involvement at the polls. However, due to an insufficient voter turnout a primary was not held in 1996.

Term Limits: LWVUS Convention 1992 adopted a motion "to amend the Government position of the LWVUS national program to allow state and local Leagues to use national positions and principles to take action against term limits for state or local office holders." At the January 1993 Board meeting, LWVMN voted to oppose term limits for the legislative branch of Minnesota state government. LWVMN in 1994 established an "opposition to legislative term limits fund" and worked in coalition with such organizations as Common Cause, AFL-CIO, League of Minnesota Cities and MEA to successfully oppose the placement of a term limits measure on the ballot.

In 1995 the League voiced its strong opposition to both national and state efforts to adopt term limits legislation. As an alternative to term limits, the League supported successful legislation to rotate committee chairs. Limiting the number of years a member can be chair allows new ideas.

Handicapped Access to Precinct Caucuses and Conventions:

During the 1989 Legislative session LWVMN worked with other groups to enact a measure which requires handicapped access to party conventions and requires that convention and caucus materials be available to the visually impaired.

Permanent Absentee Voter Status: During the 1990 session LWVMN supported the enactment of a bill providing for permanent absentee voter status for eligible voters who are permanently unable to go to the polling place on election day due to illness or disability.

CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

LWVUS Position: Action to improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process. (1973)

LWVMN Position: Support of improvements in election laws regulating campaign practices.

Details

Support of:

- the public's right to comprehensive disclosure of all political campaign contributions and expenditures: mandatory, timely, uniform and complete reports of campaign contributions and expenditures should be made to a central authority responsible for disseminating such information to the public; responsibility for reporting contributions to the candidate's campaign and for reporting expenditures by the candidate and those made on the candidate's behalf rests squarely on the candidate; penalties should be stringent enough to ensure compliance by candidates. (1961)
- judicious use of public resources to finance campaigns. (1972)
- reduction of the amount of money spent on campaigns.
 (1972)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

LWVMN has been active on this subject since 1961. In 1973 LWVMN worked in coalition for major campaign financing legislation which established the State Ethics Commission. LWVMN monitors this body, now called the Ethical Practices Board (EPB), and continues to review legislation affecting the EPB. In 1980, League supported and Minnesota voters passed a constitutional amendment raising campaign spending limits for candidates for executive and legislative offices and mandating public disclosure of campaign spending for all state candidates.

Beginning in 1983 the Legislature has considered bills designed to set campaign spending limits for congressional candidates who agree to accept public financing. During the 1990 session LWVMN supported passage of the bill establishing voluntary

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION (continued)

spending limits for candidates of the U. S. House of Representatives (\$425,000) and the Senate (\$3,400,000). A candidate who agrees to abide by the limits, but whose opponent does not, receives a "financial incentive" or subsidy of up to 25% of the limit and would not have to abide by the limit. Candidates must provide an equal match to the amount of subsidy received. If both candidates agree to abide by the limits, neither receives a subsidy. The subsidy is funded from the state's general fund. The statute urges Congress to enact additional regulations to limit contributions to candidates by political action committees.

LWVMN has supported efforts to limit fundraising events for legislators during sessions each year since 1985. The 1990 Legislature enacted a bill prohibiting principal campaign committees and "friends of" committees from holding fund-raisers during a regular legislative session.

During the 1995 session LWVMN lobbied hard to keep the current ethics law, and in the end was successful. There were several attempts to weaken the laws passed the previous year. In particular an attempt to create a loophole was monitored by League lobbyists.

The League continues to work to make the federal election process more open and equitable. Recent national action has focused on support for legislation mandating public financing for congressional elections and placing limits on the size of donations that political action committees can give to candidates. Leagues continue to apply the position in working for campaign reform measures at the state and local levels.

In 1993 LWVMN supported action by the legislature to improve campaign finance laws in Minnesota. Working with a coalition formed by Common Cause, a reform measure passed which decreased financing from political action committees, lobbyists and large donors for candidates for state office and encouraged increased participation by small donors and the general public. The measure also eliminated abuses of the system by prohibiting "friends of" committees, the transfer of funds between candidates, disallowed public subsidy for unopposed candidates and prohibited caucus fund-raisers during legislative session. Recognizing the incumbent advantage, first-time candidates for state office are permitted to increase their spending limit by 10%. For the first time contribution limits were placed on candidates for local office.

To provide funding for these changes, more emphasis was placed on public financing for state-office candidates. The check-off system remains with an additional state appropriation. Small contributors may receive a one-time reimbursement from the state for a contribution to a candidate running for state office.

In 1996, in conjunction with Common Cause, local leagues lobbied U.S. representatives in support of HR 2566, a comprehensive campaign finance reform bill in the House of Representatives: voluntary spending limits; reduced cost ways for candidates to communicate with the public; controls on "softmoney" contributions'; limits on large individual contributions; and cuts in the amount of PAC donations.

OPEN MEETINGS AND OPEN RECORDS

LWVUS Position: Governmental bodies (should) protect the citizens' right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible. (Principles, 1974)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Open Meetings: Support for open meetings was first made explicit in the LWVUS 1972 U. S. Congress position; in 1973, Leagues were empowered to apply that position at the state and local levels. The 1974 Minnesota Open Meeting Law required all meetings of governmental bodies to be open to the public (except those of the Board of Pardons; the Corrections Board; and the Legislature, which sets its own rules) and that these bodies maintain records on their actions that are accessible to the public.

LWVMN testified for this law, and members continue to monitor compliance at state and local levels of government. LWVMN opposes any changes in the law, except it would support a limited number of school board bargaining strategy sessions closed to the public. The law continues to be subject to reinterpretation and application. The Minnesota Supreme Court in 1983 ruled that private discussions by school board members prior to a meeting where a vote was to be taken were not in violation of the law, since those gatherings were conducted with less than a quorum present.

The 1983 Legislature passed an LWVMN-supported bill that requires pertinent materials on subjects discussed at an open meeting be made available to the public.

The 1990 legislature passed a bill which applies the requirements of the open meeting law to the Legislature. (Caucuses of members from the same party are excluded.)

Open Records: Ever since the 1974 Minnesota Legislature enacted the Data Privacy Act, LWVMN has monitored the action of the Legislature in the area of open records, balancing our desire for openness with the individual's right to privacy. In 1979, the Legislature passed a LWVMN-supported bill which defined the terms "public," "private," and "confidential," and stated that all government data will be open to the public unless specifically classified as confidential or private by state statute.

LWVMN continues to monitor all bills dealing with the Data Privacy Act. The League has resisted attempts to facilitate the classification of materials, since it impedes the public's right to know.

II. ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT

LWVUS Positions: Action to support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance. (1972) Action to promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution. (1976) Action to support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population. (1966, 1972)

LWVMN Position: Support of improved structure and procedures for the Minnesota Legislature and executive branch; support of an improved process for amending the Minnesota Constitution; support of apportionment substantially on population of congressional districts and of all elected state and local governmental bodies.

Details

Support of:

- legislative reform through improved procedures for providing information, adequate research assistance, no increase in size (reduction in size is desirable), realistic compensation for legislators, improved organization of committees, legislative sessions of adequate length, and allowing the Legislature to call itself into special session. The Legislature should meet annually and should have the power to determine the time of meeting and length of session and should have the power to recess. (1955, 1968)
- a post-auditor appointed by and directly responsible to the Legislature. (1955)
- changes in executive structure characterized by clear lines of authority and responsibility, elimination of duplication and overlapping of agencies, a structure of organization designed to focus on current and emerging problems, and a system of standard nomenclature. (1970)
- measures to change the process of amending the state Constitution by retaining a simple majority vote by the Legislature in proposing an amendment and requiring a simple majority of those voting on the question for ratification. (1947, 1962)
- regular and equitable reapportionment, with definite procedures established to ensure prompt redistricting by the Legislature or by a reapportionment commission; support of procedures which provide for:
 - ⇒ compact, contiguous districts giving advantage to no particular person or group.
 - ⇒ public accessibility to legislative or commission deliberations and action.
 - ⇒ prompt judicial review. (1979)

III. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

LWVMN Position: Support of the continuation of legislative initiative and compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendment; opposition to most forms of voter initiative and referendum on statutes; opposition to recall by voters of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers; support of strict procedural limits on any process of initiative, referendum or recall.

Details

Support of:

- the continued initiation of constitutional amendments by the legislative branch; opposition to all forms of voter initiative of such amendments (direct, indirect or advisory).
- the continuation of compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendments.
- strict procedural limits on any form of initiative, referendum or recall considered or adopted in Minnesota, including restrictions on:
 - ⇒ time span for collecting signatures;
 - ⇒ eligibility requirements for persons signing and collecting petitions;
 - percentage of signatures required, geographic distribution of signers, and verification of signatures;
 - ⇒ size of vote required for passage;
 - procedure for repeal or amendment of a successful initiative or referendum;
 - ⇒ contributions to and spending for ballot issue campaigns. (1980)

Opposition to:

- direct initiative and advisory initiative on statutes; no agreement on indirect initiative on statutes.
- optional and compulsory referendum on statutes; no agreement on petition referendum on statutes.
- voter recall of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers; no agreement on voter recall of judges or appointed officials.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Legislative Reform: Organization of State Government was adopted for study in 1967 with an overall look at the Minnesota Legislature and the executive branch. Consensus positions reached in 1968 and 1970 incorporated earlier LWVMN positions on support for annual flexible sessions, legislative post-audit, reapportionment, and changing the amending process; some of these positions date from League's 1947 study of the State Constitution. Minnesota now has a two-year flexible session. The legislative process has become more open to the public, more research assistants have been hired, and information about the Legislature and copies of bills are easier to obtain. Organization of committees continues to improve, although reducing the

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION (continued)

number of committees has substantially increased the number of subcommittees. The 1975 Legislature voted to provide lodging expenses in addition to per diem and also to allow travel expenses within a legislator's district.

Amending the Constitution: The 1947 LWV State Constitution study showed the need for changing the amending process. Ratification of a constitutional amendment requires a majority vote of all those voting in the election. Thus a voter who fails to vote on the amendment automatically casts a "no" vote. LWVMN believes that the requirement for ratification should be changed to a majority of those voting on the question. In 1974 LWVMN supported a constitutional amendment allowing amendments to be passed by a 55% majority of those voting on the question; the amendment was defeated by the voters.

Reapportionment: LWVUS has supported reapportionment based on population since 1966. The 1979 LWVMN Convention revised the state position to make it responsive to the issue of reapportionment in the 1980s. In 1980, League supported a constitutional amendment establishing a bipartisan commission to draw new legislative and congressional districts. The amendment failed.

During the 1991 session, LWVMN worked with a coalition to support timely redistricting of the state legislature. As in previous redistricting efforts the legislative process was contentious and the resulting plan controversial, thus reinforcing the need for a bipartisan redistricting commission.

Initiative, Referendum and Recall: LWVMN opposed a constitutional amendment proposed in the 1980 general election that would have provided for initiative and referendum. The League joined a coalition, Citizens for Representative Government, and formed a ballot issues fund to finance the opposition campaign. The amendment was defeated since it did not receive a majority of the votes cast in the election even though pre-election polls indicated it was supported by 75 to 80% of the electorate.

The League Action Committee and the State Board reiterated its 1979 position against recall. A bill, including enabling legislation, passed during the 1996 session, to place on the November ballot a question to include recall as part of the constitution.

IV. FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT

LWVMN Position: Support of a balanced and diversified revenue system that is equitable, competitive with other states, progressive and reliable. Support of long-term financial management, projections and a budget reserve. (1995)

Support of:

- a balanced and diversified revenue system which relies on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees.
- the following criteria for evaluating individual revenue sources and the overall revenue system:
 - ⇒ Competitiveness: Allows Minnesota to compete with other states and nations as a location of

- economic activity, recognizing that the revenue system is only one of many factors involved in location choice and that the level and effectiveness of public services affects competitiveness.
- ⇒ Efficiency: Maintains a reasonable relationship between administration and compliance costs and the amount of revenue generated.
- ⇒ Equity: Imposes a similar revenue burden on taxpayers in like circumstances.
- ⇒ Progressivity: Requires that those with a greater ability pay a larger percentage of their income in taxes.
- ⇒ Reliability: Provides a stable source of revenue.
- ⇒ Responsiveness: Adjusts to changes in economic conditions and reflects long term growth.
- ⇒ Simplicity: Is understandable to the taxpayer.
- a progressive individual income tax with a graduated rate schedule.
- a broad-based retail sales tax with exemptions for essential items to reduce the impact on low-income persons.
- the use of an equitable property tax as the primary source of financing for services provided by local governments and a partial source of financing education. (See the Financing Education position.)
- a corporation franchise tax which is competitive with other states providing a comparable level of public services. The LWVMN supports a corporation franchise tax which equitably taxes all corporations earning profits from their business activities within the state.
- the use of other sources of revenue, such as user fees and special assessments, for funding specific activities and projects. These charges should be assessed with a sensitivity to the criteria established to judge the overall revenue system.
- achieving social policy goals through open and visible expenditures rather than by granting deductions, exclusions and credits. If deductions, exclusions and credits are granted, they should be:
 - Evaluated on the basis of their compliance with the criteria established to judge the overall revenue system;
 - 2. Determined to be the most cost-effective means of achieving the intended purpose;
 - 3. Reviewed periodically to justify continuance.
- the distribution of state-collected revenues to local governments based upon the following principles:
 - ⇒ It is appropriate for state and local governments to share in the cost of services provided by local governments that benefit all Minnesotans.
 - ⇒ If necessary, state funding may be used to assure that local community services are available on an equitable basis.

- ⇒ The state should not impose statutory limits on local governments' ability to raise and spend revenue for local community services.
- Programs which distribute state-collected revenues to local governments should enhance that equity, progressivity and efficiency of the overall revenue system.
- ⇒ Once enacted, promised distributions of statecollected revenues to local governments should be a reliable source of revenue to local governmental units.
- the principle that state legislation mandating local governments to provide specific services should identify adequate and appropriate revenue sources.
- long-term financial management of all state government funds.
- long-term projections of revenue and expenditures should be considered when making budget decisions.
- an adequate budget reserve should be established during good economic times to be used in recession years to sustain expenditures for necessary services.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Since the mid '50s the LWVMN has studied the financing of state and local governments. Early studies focused on the property tax, resulting in LWVMN support of property tax reform. In 1969 LWVMN lobbied successfully for legislation permitting counties to establish county assessor systems; all assessors must be professionally accredited. In keeping with its education position, LWVMN supported a shift in 1971 away from property tax and toward greater state funding of education. LWVMN again studied financing state government in 1975-77 and adopted an expanded position. In 1979 this position and the existence of a state surplus enabled LWVMN to lobby for decreased taxation and to support reducing individual income tax rates by changing the tax brackets. The 1979 Legislature passed a comprehensive tax relief law which included adjusting income tax rates by indexing income tax brackets for inflation.

The early 1980s saw great problems arise with financing state government. The economy lagged, with high unemployment and low revenue collections. In response to the economic situation and attempts to alleviate it, in 1983 the governor appointed a tax commission to analyze Minnesota's overall economic situation and the tax structure. The commission, whose findings League monitored, made comprehensive recommendations for the economy of the 1980s.

In the October 1989 Special Session, the Legislature enacted a property tax reform bill which began to restructure state-local finances. The goal is for the state to fund state-mandated programs and for property tax to support local programs. For example, starting in 1991, the state funded income maintenance programs formerly paid for by state and local money. In 1990 the state also assumed district court administration and certain other court costs. Other features of the bill were changes in property tax rates, a decrease ion the number of rates, and more detailed property tax statements.

LWVMN supported the bill's effort to break the link between local property tax and state mandated services.

The 1995 LWVMN Board adopted a new position on Financing State Government. In 1995 the LWVMN convention adopted a new study on Minnesota State Spending.

V. FIREARMS

LWVUS Position: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons. (1990)

LWVMN Position: Action to support restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in the state of Minnesota. (1990)

Details

Support of:

- · licensing of long guns, hand guns and assault weapons.
- registration of long guns, hand guns and assault weapons.
- a waiting period for the purchase of long guns, hand guns and assault weapons.
- a waiting period as preferable to an instant computer background check.
- a ban on the manufacture, sale and importation of assault weapons and assault weapon parts.
- mandatory firearm safety training before the purchase of a firearm.
- the concept of gun owner liability when others are harmed due to the owner's negligence.
- stiffer and/or mandatory penalties for people who commit crimes with firearms.
- the ability of local municipalities to regulate ownership and possession of firearms and ammunition more strictly than state law allows.

Opposition to:

 an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota granting an individual the right to bear arms

LWVMN does not support or oppose an instant computer background check.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Following the adoption of the LWVMN position in 1990, LWVMN members played a key role at the LWVUS Convention in the adoption of a gun control position through concurrence with the Illinois position.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION (continued)

In January 1991, LWVMN joined "Citizens for a Safer Minnesota," a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to: supporting legislation regulating availability of military assault weapons and handguns; educating Minnesotans about the causes of and solutions for gun-related violence; promoting awareness that gun-related violence is not just a crime issue, but also affects public safety, child protection, health and the educational climate as well

The Coalition lobbied successfully in 1992 for legislation that would prohibit handgun permits being granted to persons with a history of domestic assault; and in 1993, for the Omnibus Crime Bill which enacted a statewide ban on carrying rifles in a public place, a ban on kits that would convert semi-automatics to full machine guns, and legislation that would permit municipalities to regulate gun shops through zoning laws. The Child Accident Protection Bill passed which requires adults store loaded weapons away from children and enhanced penalties for guns in schools and drive-by shootings.

The League, as part of Citizens for a Safer Minnesota, lobbied unsuccessfully in 1996 to raise the age from 14 to 18 as the threshold for adults to store loaded weapons away from children.

In 1993 LWVMN leadership and lobbyists successfully lobbied members of Congress for passage of the Brady Bill after several years of effort. In 1995, League lobbied their representatives to stop the repeal of the Brady Bill.

League lobbyists were active in opposition to a proposal to place a "Right to Bear Arms" amendment on the ballot. LWVMN worked to counteract the NRA's argument that the Second Amendment gives everyone the right to own a weapon. Leaguers pointed out that the Supreme Court has ruled 6 times that the Second Amendment only deals with state militias -- not an individual's right to own arms.

In 1996 the League actively lobbied against an amendment to the Omnibus Crime Bill which would ease the restrictions to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

LWVUS Position: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. (1986)

WATER RESOURCES

LWVMN Position: Support of a state role in the preservation and management of Minnesota's water resources through protection, allocation, conservation, pricing and interbasin transfer policies protective of Minnesota's current and future needs. (1985)

Details

Support of:

- state water policies which emphasize planning for supply, use and quality, and effective coordination of agencies and levels of government with responsibility for water resources. Support for statewide, comprehensive planning to protect both ground and surface water. Support for policies which:
 - ⇒ recognize regional differences in supply and use.
 - ⇒ integrate both ground and surface water management.
 - ⇒ integrate quality and quantity management.
 - ⇒ provide for research on hydrogeology and best use of water resources.
 - ⇒ consider future use (of water resources).
 - ⇒ promote data acquisition to characterize quality and quantity.
 - ⇒ provide for maintenance and repair of water facilities.
 - ⇒ distinguish between withdrawal and consumption.
- a state water conservation plan which emphasizes preservation and efficient use of water resources. The plan should, at a minimum:
 - ⇒ continue to develop the protected stream flow and aquifer-safe yield programs.
 - ⇒ provide for education and technical assistance.
 - ⇒ require specific conservation plans from those who propose interbasin transfers.
 - ⇒ provide incentives for recycling and reuse.
- water-pricing policies which include full costs of production and delivery in water prices. Support for rate structures which encourage conservation. Support for user fees or taxes to cover costs in state water management.
- interbasin transfers (both intrastate and interstate) only
 if water remaining in the basin would be sufficient for
 present, future and instream needs. Decisions to
 transfer water should consider environmental effects,
 future water needs of basin of origin and conservation
 practices of the receiving basin.
- clear legislative definition of the decision-making process for interstate and interbasin transfers. This process should include at least an advisory role for local governments affected by the transfer and a regulatory role for state government. Each of the following options should be considered:
 - ⇒ Minnesota legislation governing interbasin transfers.
 - ⇒ uniform legislation among Great Lakes states.

- ⇒ federal legislation requiring basin-of-origin state approval.
- interstate compacts with authority for transfer decisions.
- increased state and province participation in International Joint Commission proceedings.

SOLID WASTE

LWVMN Position: Support of measures to reduce generation of solid waste.

Details

Support of:

- state government's taking measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid waste through research and development of alternatives to sanitary landfills.
- measures to discourage the use of nonreturnable beverage containers.
- flexibility in the establishment and enforcement of standards in solid waste management to allow the state to adopt more stringent standards than federal standards. (1973)

LAND USE

LWVMN Position: Support of an overall land use plan with maximum cooperation and implementation at the regional and local level, with state help in developing and exercising land use management, with opportunity for maximum local decision making, and with regional planning and regulation for matters of more than local concern.

Details

Support a state plan that should:

- be tied closely to integrated planning (e.g., human services, highways).
- be coordinated with plans and policies of local and regional agencies.
- require local government to exercise at least a minimum level of planning and control.
- recognize fragile or historic land, renewable resource lands, and natural hazard lands as critical areas and subject them to at least minimum control.
- require impact statements of major public and private development.
- provide financial aid for research, technical assistance and state data for local and regional governmental units.
- provide authority to local and regional governmental units to exercise innovative planning and regulatory techniques such as land banking, planned unit development, transfer of development rights, timed development ordinances.

 provide for an appeals board to arbitrate conflicts among governmental bodies and between citizens and governmental bodies. (1975)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Water: Since the national study of water resources in 1956, LWVMN has supported state participation in interstate commissions to provide comprehensive planning for boundary waters. Many water quality bills supported by LWVMN were enacted in 1973: mandatory shoreland zoning in incorporated areas, broadened definition of public waters to include wetlands, mandatory flood plain zoning, strict drainage controls, and statewide water inventory. LWVMN participated in the Federal 208 Water Quality Study and in the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission's GREAT I Study on future uses of the Mississippi. In 1978 and 1979 emphasis on noncontamination of potable water became one of LWVMN's concerns.

Legislation in the '80s concerned the managerial aspects of water. LWVMN has used the 1985 consensus to work with the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) on determining direction and issues to be covered under the EQB's ten priority issues.

In 1995 the League closely monitored some legislators attempts to relax Wetlands restrictions. The session ended without changes. In 1996 the LWVMN actively participated with the Wetlands Coalition to monitor the changes to the Wetlands Protection Act. The League wanted to keep the "no-net loss" policy on drainage ditch repair and construction..

Air: In 1971 LWV members reached national consensus on air quality. LWVMN supported mandatory vehicle emission inspection and the disbursement of dedicated highway trust funds to municipalities for mass transit. In 1976 LWV supported legislation banning fluorocarbon aerosol containers. Since 1981 LWV has worked to strengthen and readopt the National Clean Air Act; a bill passed in 1990. In 1982 LWVMN testified at regulatory hearings for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on maintaining or strengthening ozone and sulfur dioxide standards for the state. As a result of the hearings standards were somewhat tightened.

LWVMN has supported acid rain controls at both the state and national levels, and continues to monitor the acid rain situation both in Minnesota and other areas of the country.

Solid Waste: Following both state and national consensus on solid waste management in 1973, LWVMN has lobbied for bills discouraging the use of nonreturnable beverage containers (rejected by the Legislature in 1978 and 1979) and establishing regional resource recovery centers. LWVMN has supported legislation creating a deposit for beverage containers. In 1982 the League promoted the filing of a bill at the Legislature to establish a deposit law in Minnesota. The bill was considered in committee in 1984 and turned down; it was not introduced in 1985. In the 1988 session LWVMN, in coalition with other environmental groups, made a major push for deposit legislation. It failed.

In 1977 LWVMN joined other environmental groups in requesting that Reserve Mining Company be required to meet existing air and water quality standards in its disposal of taconite wastes.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION (continued)

During the 1989 session LWVMN supported passage of amendments to the waste management statute fostering an integrated waste management system through reduction and reuse, waste recycling, yard waste composting and resource recovery. A portion of the fees charged for disposal of solid waste is used to assist counties in their waste reduction efforts. LWVMN also supported proposed ordinances in Minneapolis and St. Paul requiring that food packaging be returnable, degradable or recycled, and was represented in the Advisory Committee on implementing these ordinances.

From 1990 to 1993 LWVMN continued to support legislation designed to reduce packaging waste through fees including container deposit. We also supported provisions which had mandatory recycled content requirements for products.

In 1991 we opposed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens Board's granting of a permit for the Dakota County's incinerator based on LWVUS's seven minimum conditions necessary to support an incinerator.

Hazardous Waste: LWVMN supported the adoption by the state Legislature of the Waste Management Act of 1980, and has continued to support citizen action as the Waste Management Board seeks to site waste facilities.

Since 1984 when Minnesota became a part of the Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact, LWVMN has joined with other midwest state Leagues to monitor siting of a low level radioactive waste disposal site.

LWVMN opposed the Northern State Power Company's request in 1992 to the Public Utilities Commission to grant a Certificate of Need for dry cask storage of high-level radioactive waste at the Prairie Island facility based on Minnesota Statute Sec. 116C.72, which requires legislative consent to create a high-level radioactive waste facility in Minnesota. In 1993 a Minnesota Appeals court upheld that position. Our opposition was based on the process rather than the facility. LWVUS has granted permission for LWVMN to oppose the storage facility as proposed by NSP.

Land Use: State and national positions on land use were reached in 1975 after two years of study. In 1977 and 1979, LWVMN testified in Minnesota and Washington, DC, in favor of full wilderness status for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), which was established by Congress in 1978. Since 1975 LWVMN has supported efforts to enact a state comprehensive land use plan.

Energy: In 1977 LWVMN received a grant from the US Energy Research and Development Administration to train local League members as resource people in their communities to teach energy-saving techniques and to publish an Energy Information Directory. The LWV continues to support conservation and development of alternatives to fossil fuels.

SOCIAL POLICY

Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all and combat discrimination and poverty.

I. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

LWVUS Position: Support equal access to education, employment and housing. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

LWVMN Position: Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons. Support of administrative enforcement of antidiscrimination laws. Support of state responsibility for and responsiveness to Indian citizens.

Details

Support of:

- the principle that the state is responsible for all its citizens on an equal basis and should work to ensure equal treatment for all citizens by all levels of government. (1951)
- antidiscrimination legislation as a necessary means of eliminating discrimination. (1957)
- the principle of fair housing and antidiscrimination laws governing transactions of all real property, regardless of whether the financing is public or private. (1961)
- adequately financed enforcement of antidiscrimination laws dealing with employment, housing, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services. (1961)
- state legislation to ensure services for Indian citizens
 which are equal to those provided for other citizens.
 Where Indians are singled out for special attention, that
 attention should be directed towards solving existing
 jurisdictional conflicts in order to guarantee equal
 treatment of Indian citizens by all levels of government.
 Programs should have the explicit recognition that the
 basic decisions regarding Indian lives and property are
 to be made by the Indians themselves. (1963)
- a state agency of Indian affairs which meets the following criteria: acceptable to the Indians themselves; permanent; staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and coordinating programs; empowered to use the services of other existing agencies and provided with adequate funds. (1963)
- the correction of racial imbalance in the schools. (1967)
- life-long access to public education for expanded job opportunities and personal enrichment to achieve education equity for all citizens. (Convention 1983)

II. FAMILY AND CHILD ISSUES

FAMILY VIOLENCE

LWVMN Position: Support for improved procedures for agencies dealing with family violence. Support for improved services for the victims.

Details

Support of:

- a multi-disciplinary approach in dealing with child abuse.
- more advocates to protect the interests of victims of family violence.
- · more shelters for battered women.
- a complete and continuing system of data collection on incidents of family violence to aid in planning and evaluation of services.
- a continuing program of mediation as an alternative to criminal prosecution in resolving domestic disputes.
- provision of immediate legal remedies for victims of family violence.
- a coordinated training program for all legal and human services professionals to address the problems of family violence. (1980)

CHILD SUPPORT

LWVMN Position: Support of stricter enforcement of court-ordered child support payments.

Details

Support of:

- efforts to make support collections and enforcement services equally available to non-public assistance families.
- · efforts to adequately publicize available services.
- providing adequate staff to enforce child support in an efficient and expeditious manner. (1982)

CHILD PROTECTION

LWVMN Position: Support of adequate staffing and resources for child protection services. (1986)

Details

Support of:

- the assignment of a high priority to state and county level Child Protection Services to ensure adequate staffing and sufficient resources to provide meaningful services to families experiencing abuse and neglect.
- a Children's Trust Fund to support programs aimed at preventing the abuse and neglect of children.

- funding programs to promote good parenting and to provide support for parents, especially those in high risk groups, in order to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- modifications of juvenile and criminal court proceedings in cases of abuse and neglect, reducing the trauma to the child victim while still protecting the rights of the alleged abuser.

CHILD HEALTH

LWVMN Position: Support access to comprehensive prenatal and child health care. (1987)

Details

Support of:

- public policies that provide access to comprehensive pre-natal and child health care because we are convinced of the cost effectiveness of preventive health care for pregnant women and children.
- publicly supported health insurance for pregnant women and children with family incomes up to at least 200% of the poverty level.
- publicly and privately sponsored programs that ensure adequate nutrition for pregnant and nursing mothers and young children.
- ensure adequate care for children with disabilities an chronic illness.

CHILD CARE

LWVUS Position: Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, in order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty.

LWVMN Position: Support of coordinated public policies and funding to ensure safe, affordable, quality child care throughout the state. (1987)

Details

Support of:

- adequate funding of a child care sliding fee program to ensure quality child care for low income children.
- public policies and adequate funding at the state and county level to create and sustain quality programs, including grants and loans and resource and referral services to meet the demand.
- policies in the public and private sectors that recognize the value of the child care professional and provide adequate wages and benefits to trained child care workers.
- providing an unpaid leave of absence for the parent of a newborn or newly adopted child.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

LWVMN Position: Support prevention efforts to lower the rate of teenage pregnancy. (1988)

Details

Support of:

- the Minnesota Department of Education requiring school districts to collect data on drop-outs for reasons of pregnancy or adolescent parenting.
- increased prevention efforts in the public schools in order to lower the rate of teenage pregnancy.
- a prevention curriculum that includes the legal and financial responsibilities of male teenage parents.
- health care providers publicizing the necessity of prenatal care and the locations of free and low cost health services.

III. HOUSING

LWVMN Position: The League believes that all people have a right to housing. The public and private sectors should work together to ensure that everyone has access to adequate, decent, affordable housing.

Details

Support an active state role in providing long-term decent and affordable housing for very low-, low-, and moderateincome households. Specifically support programs that:

- increase a community's capacity to provide a full range of housing opportunities;
- preserve and expand the existing affordable housing stock;
- prevent homelessness;
- · promote rental housing subsidies.

Support incentives to local units of government to promote a mix of housing opportunities including home ownership and rental housing for people of all ages with very low-, low- and moderate- incomes. Support disincentives to local units of government that do not promote such a mix of housing opportunities.

Support revising the tax system to:

- narrow the tax disparity between rental and owner occupied residential property;
- reduce the tax rate on rental residential property available to very low-, low- and moderate- income households;
- encourage maintenance of rental property available to very low-, low- and moderate- income households.

IV. HEALTH CARE

LWVUS Position: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all US residents. Other US health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. (1993) (See 'National Program At a Glance' for full position.)

V. MENTAL HEALTH

LWVMN Position: Support of a comprehensive and coordinated system of programs and services for mentally ill adults and emotionally disturbed children and adolescents (hereafter referred to as "persons with mental illness"). Priority should be given to persons with serious and persistent mental illness and/or acute mental illness. Minnesota public policy and funding should sustain an array of community based services which are available and accessible to persons with mental illness. Administration of that policy should provide clients with appropriate and adequate services. (1989)

Details

Support of:

- adequate and consistent funding for services for persons with mental illness. Public funding should be flexible, following the client's needs, yet accountable to the public.
- a range of appropriate housing options for persons with mental illness.
- a commitment process which ensures prompt and appropriate treatment for persons with mental illness while protecting their civil rights. The commitment process should enable the commitment of persons so gravely disabled by mental illness that they cannot meet their basic human needs.
- a coordinated system of quality assurance (including standards, mechanisms to monitor and the ability to take corrective action) for programs and services for persons with mental illness with an emphasis on evaluating outcomes and consumer response.
- continuing state financial responsibility for improved intensive treatment programs and adequate living conditions for persons currently served in regional treatment centers.

VI. PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

LWVUS Position: Support violence prevention programs in all communities.

LWVMN Position: Support for violence prevention programs in our community.

Details

Support of:

- educational programs that emphasize self-esteem, healthy sexuality, problem solving, positive expression of emotions, non-violent conflict resolution and respect for others to prevent violent behavior. This would include support for:
 - government sponsored parenting and early childhood classes;
 - ⇒ local or state government mandating or encouraging such education programs in school curricula;
 - ⇒ use of public money to train teachers and administrators to use non-violence curricula;
 - ⇒ training for childcare providers.
- a requirement that adult educators, including coaches, participate in prevention of sexual harassment and violence education programs, and that public money be provided for adequate training.
- the use of public money for a statewide public information and communication campaign designed to prevent violent and sexually violent behavior; i.e., to promote healthy sexuality, non-violent conflict resolution, and gender and racial equality.
- efforts of state and local government to develop and coordinate programs dealing with primary prevention of violence.
- allocation of public moneys in governmental programs to combat violence through reducing substance abuse and poverty, and by identifying and responding to individuals who have been violent or are at risk for violent behavior.
- the following social institutions taking an active role in preventing violent behavior: religion, business, law, medicine, media, civic and recreational organizations.
- efforts to encourage the media industry to exercise self-restraint in the promotion of violence.
- efforts to encourage the pornography industry to exercise self-restraint in the promotion of sexuallyviolent pornography.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Antidiscrimination and ERA: In 1949, LWVMN began a broad study of civil rights in Minnesota. During the 1950s LWVMN focused on employment based on merit and worked with other groups to secure passage of the Fair Employment Practices Act (1955), which was incorporated into the State Act Against

Discrimination in 1961. During the 1960s LWVMN continued investigating employment practices, discrimination in housing and public accommodations, the special problems of Minnesota Indians, and two factors contributing to inequality of opportunity in education (the common school district and racial imbalance). LWVMN supported formation of the Department of Human Rights in 1967 and the 1973 legislation which extended the Department's jurisdiction to all cases of discrimination based on sex, marital status, physical disability or status as a recipient of public assistance. In 1977 members supported extending coverage to age and sexual preference.

The 1972 national Convention supported the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. In 1973 LWVMN (as a member of the state Coalition to Ratify the ERA) successfully supported ratification of ERA by the Minnesota Legislature.

Since 1975 LWVMN has continued to interpret the ERA and to work to prevent recision. In 1983 the League vigorously supported a Minnesota ERA and opposed irrelevant amendments to the ERA.

Other anti-discrimination issues supported by LWVMN, both alone and in coalition, include: pilot centers to assist displaced homemakers; reinstatement of Medicaid funding for abortions; and elimination of discriminatory inheritance tax and insurance laws.

In 1993 LWVMN joined the coalition "It's Time Minnesota" which lobbied successfully for the inclusion of sexual preference in Minnesota's anti-discrimination legislation.. A LWVMN lobbyist served on Governor Carlson's 1994 task force on gays and lesbians, instrumental in passing the Human Rights Amendment.

Merging National and State Positions on Equality of Opportunity: The LWVUS began its study of human resources in 1964. Because the positions of the LWVUS and LWVMN are so similar, they have been merged for state action purposes on welfare, housing supply, tenants' rights, and support of antipoverty programs. In 1967 LWVMN worked to extend opportunities for education of children receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). During the 1973 legislative session LWVMN supported measures to abolish the township system of general relief, apply state standards and provide 40% state reimbursement for general relief. The LWVMN then, and in each session since, has urged various supplements for income maintenance programs and a level of payment that would help recipients' income keep pace with escalating living costs. In 1978 LWVMN supported a sliding fee scale subsidy for child care services for low and moderate income families and continued to work for it in 1983 and 1985, as well as supporting continuation of the child care tax credit.

In 1980, LWVMN wrote and supported legislation for job sharing in state government. The League continues to support flexible employment hours and shared job positions in government and private industry. Beginning in 1983 LWVMN supported pay equity legislation. Forming the Coalition for Pay Equity with other women's and labor groups, the League acted successfully to prevent weakening of the present law. During the 1990 session LWVMN lobbied in favor of clearer definitions of an equitable compensation relationship, provisions for reviewing and accepting plans by the Department of Employee Relations, and penalty provisions. The revised measure was passed and signed into law.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION (continued)

In 1975 and 1977 LWVMN supported the concept of integrated human service systems in the state, to give clients better access to services. Since 1969 LWVMN has supported tenants' rights legislation, a state uniform building code, establishment of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and enabling legislation for agencies which assist in planning and developing housing.

Child Support: In 1982 Leagues throughout the state concurred with the LWV Minneapolis position on stricter enforcement of court-ordered child support payments. In subsequent years LWVMN has supported child support legislation to make services more equitable for non-Public Assistance families and to withhold income automatically for court-ordered support.

Child Protection, Health and Child Care: Since achieving consensus in 1986 and 1987, LWVMN has worked to support adequate staffing and resources for Child Protection Services at the county and state level. League took action in support of the Children's Health Plan and expanding pre-natal health care services. In a coalition the League helped to found (Child Care WORKS), LWVMN has aggressively worked for expansion of the Child Care Sliding Fee Program for low-income parents and development grants to increase the supply of quality child care. League supported legislation to guarantee an unpaid parental leave.

The League supported a proposal to expand the basic sliding fee program to subsidize low- and middle-income Minnesotans who pay childcare expenses. The bill was incorporated into the Omnibus Human Services legislation. The League lobbied for the appropriation of money for crisis nurseries and home visiting programs. Incorporated in a 1996 crime prevention bill the nurseries and home visits provide early intervention in abusive situations, recognizing that the number one indicator of criminal behavior is child abuse.

Teenage Pregnancy: In 1988 Minnesota Leagues concurred with LWV Minneapolis' position in support of prevention efforts to lower the rate of teenage pregnancy. LWVMN testified in 1994 for the inclusion in the Omnibus Education Finance Bill for money to fund a program to teach male responsibility to teen fathers.

Health Care: The national Health Care position arrived just in time to allow crucial lobbying by LWVMN for the establishment of Minnesota's HealthRight legislation in 1992 (now called MinnesotaCare). The League continued monitoring its development in the 1993 legislative session and also monitored rulemaking by the Minnesota Health Care Commission and Department of Health. A primary concern is that the consumers' point of view be included in Commission decisions. LWVMN is also working with the Health Care Reform Project, a national coalition to promote health care reform at the federal level. Included in any plan the Project supports are: universal coverage and mandatory employer participation; serious cost containment; comprehensive benefits for all; and reform now.

The League concentrated its health care lobbying efforts in 1995 to prevent the erosion of the 1994 MinnesotaCare bill and to seek funding for universal coverage, a LWVMN goal to achieve by Jan. 1, 1997.

Housing: LWVMN lobbied in 1993 in support of a bill that would provide "comprehensive choice" in housing throughout the metropolitan area. The vision was to distribute a full range of housing throughout the metro area enabling very low-, low-, and moderate- income people to live near the new entry level jobs opening up in the outer ring suburbs.

Mental Health: The LWVMN Mental Health position was adopted in early 1989.

During the 1989 Legislative Session the League monitored refinements of the 1987 Comprehensive Mental Health Act. The Legislature approved a plan to shift care for mentally retarded Minnesotans from regional treatment centers (RTCs) to community-based group homes. LWVMN lobbied for community-based services for mentally ill persons as well. We supported the Legislature's direction to the Commissioner of Human Services to develop plans for downsizing RTC facilities that will not adversely affect the proper care of residents. League lobbied for appropriations for employment counselors for the mentally ill.

During the September 1989 special session LWVMN supported the concept of state funding for the major portion of the cost of state-mandated mental health services.

During the 1993 session the League supported refinements of the Comprehensive Mental Health Act. LWVMN lobbied for community-based homes for persons with mental illness. League has consistently supported increased funding for community services. We also supported the Anoka Alternatives, a fund to find housing for difficult-to-place persons at Anoka Regional Treatment Center. We supported the closing of Moose Lake Regional Treatment Center and increased funding for community services for those clients. LWVMN also supported innovative employment programs in the community which will be an ongoing concern.

In 1995 the League provided testimony in support of a bill to create delivery system pilots which would pool the resources of regional treatment centers with community dollars. In 1996 the League lobbied successfully for the continued funding for five Coordinated Employment Projects whose funding would run out on January 1, 1997. The projects provide job counseling for persons with mental illness.

Prevention of Violence: In coalition with the Minnesota Attorney General the Violence Against Women Coalition, the Citizens Council, the Battered Women's Coalition and other groups, LWVMN has lobbied successfully for violence prevention programs at the Legislature. Minnesota now has among other innovations: anti-violence curricula in its schools with funding provided to districts that offer such curricula in grades K-12; an Office for a Violence Free Minnesota, which coordinates state-wide efforts in violence prevention; foundation grants specifically targeted to violence prevention programs; and in Ramsey County, an urban, county-wide Community Action Plan using a multifaceted approach to end family violence. Delegates to LWVUS Convention in 1994 concurred with LWVMN violence position in its essentials following a campaign led by Minnesota delegates.

Minnesota American Indians: LWVMN supported creation of the Indian Affairs Commission in 1963 and lobbied in both 1967 and 1976 to retain its independent status when bills were

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION (continued)

introduced to merge it with the Department of Human Rights. In 1967 and 1976 legislative proposals recommended major changes in the composition of the Indian Affairs Commission in an attempt to adequately address the needs of both reservation and urban Indians. In both instances LWVMN worked with Indian groups and assisted in interpreting their needs to legislators. In 1971 and 1973 LWVMN lobbied for legislation to return to the Indians their hunting, fishing and ricing rights guaranteed by early treaties. LWVMN also testified in favor of a revolving fund for Indian business development financed by 20% of a new state tax on severed mineral rights. In the 1975 Legislature LWVMN supported retrocession for the Chippewa reservation. Both in 1975 and 1977 LWVMN supported legislation to create pilot bilingual education programs in the public schools. In 1984 and 1985 LWVMN took action in support of the Minnesota Indian Child Welfare Act, addressing the need for increased Indian involvement and decision-making in child foster care placement. In 1985 LWVMN published the fourth edition of Indians in Minnesota, documenting the contemporary experience of urban and reservation Indians. In 1996 a fifth edition is being prepared.

In the 1993 session LWVMN supported legislative ratification of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians agreement regarding the 1837 Treaty rights to hunting, fishing and gathering by the band. Legislative ratification would have honored the rights of the Ojibwa, protected the environment and avoided a costly court fight. The Legislature failed to act and the agreement was sent to trial. In August 1994 the Court ruled on Phase 1 in the Band's favor to allow tribal and modern method fishing and hunting. A trial on Phase 2 of the case, as to what percentage of the resources the Bands are entitled to, is due to begin in September 1996.

COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN AREA LEAGUES

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) was established in 1962. It is an interleague organization composed of all the local Leagues in the seven-county metropolitan area which includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties. Through CMAL, League members work to address governmental problems of metropolitan concern.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

CMAL Position: Support of the development of the Metropolitan Council as the decision-making body for metropolitan needs in accordance with these criteria: efficiency and economy, equitable financing, flexibility, citizen control and responsiveness to the electorate. CMAL supports provision for coordinated metropolitan services focused through the Metropolitan Council. CMAL supports retention of an appointed Metropolitan Council with greater use of its existing powers. (1969, 1976, 1993)

Details

CMAL supports:

- retention of an appointed Metropolitan Council.
 - ⇒ The appointed Council is seen as less parochial, less subject to special interests, and better able to adopt and maintain unpopular positions for the good of the entire area.
 - ⇒ The appointed Council is responsible to our elected state Legislature and watched over by our elected local officials. (1969, 1976, 1993)
- an open appointment process including publicized vacancies; increased citizen, local government and legislative influence on appointments; formal qualifications for office; establishment of a removal procedure for members of the Council and district apportionment based on population.

In the event that it appears that the Council may become an elected body, CMAL supports nonpartisanship of candidates, with availability of public financing, with selection of the chair made by the council members from among their number; maintaining population as the basis for districts, election of Council members at the same time as local officials (assuming passage of the Uniform Election Law), continuance of a part-time Council and of the per diem basis for compensation. (1976, 1993)

HOUSING

CMAL Position: Support of the Metropolitan Council as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority acting as an administrative agency providing technical assistance to communities requesting service. CMAL opposes an independent regional body separate from the Council to own and operate subsidized housing. (1981)

HEALTH

CMAL Position: Support of the continuation of health planning and coordination at the metropolitan level with state and/or regional funds, if federal funds are reduced. (1981)

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

The 1967 state Legislature established the Metropolitan Council, giving it broad assignments in areawide planning and some specific problems to work on, notably solid waste, sewage (waste water) disposal, and parks and open spaces. Its one person-one vote representation formula was strongly supported by CMAL, which also supported its role as overall planning and coordinating agency for the area, with operational boards supervising day-to-day operation of area services and local government involvement in decisions affecting them. Since its inception the Metropolitan Council has been concerned with overall growth pattern in the metropolitan area, recognizing that areawide coordination of

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION (continued)

urban services is needed and that public investment should be channeled to achieve areawide goals. These goals and policies were incorporated into the Development Framework Guide prepared by the Council in 1974-75 with CMAL assistance; CMAL has supported legislation needed for its implementation.

In 1975 CMAL restudied and updated the governmental decisionmaking position, looking closely at the question of an elected or appointed Council and assessing the relationship of the Council to other local governing bodies. A survey of attitudes of local officials toward the Metropolitan Council was published in December 1976.

In 1977 CMAL supported open appointments legislation and retention of an appointed Metropolitan Council. CMAL opposed elected Metropolitan Council legislation in 1978, noting that a popularly elected body representing more than half the population of the state could not continue in the same relationship with the Legislature. In reviewing the Council's role in the Family Housing Program in 1978, CMAL expressed its concern about the Council acting as an operating agency, not as an overall planning and coordinating body.

In 1982, 1983 and 1993 CMAL testified before the Joint Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Governance in support of an appointed Metropolitan Council functioning as a regional planning and coordinating agency and the involvement of citizens and local government officials through advisory committees and task forces. This testimony supported local jurisdictions and counties as the administrators that implement and enforce regional policy. It also supported regional services operating agencies as day-to-day providers — the implementors of policy plans adopted by the Council.

FUNDING/FINANCING FISCAL DISPARITIES

CMAL Position: Support for area-wide sharing of fiscal resources, to move towards the solution of problems created by fiscal disparities and to finance services which benefit the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area as a whole or affect the lives of all its citizens. (1970)

FINANCING METROPOLITAN SERVICES

CMAL Position: Support for operating and maintaining the metropolitan systems and services with a mix of funding sources specific to each service (federal, state and local funds and user fees). If a supplemental fund is created, CMAL supports additional user fees, new or increased, appropriate to the service. (1985)

Details

CMAL supports:

- improved accountability of metropolitan agencies by:
 - uniform reporting and submittal dates of agency development programs to the Metropolitan Council.

- ⇒ a responsible, uniform system of administrative procedures for all metropolitan agencies.
- improved accountability of the Metropolitan Council by:
 - ⇒ the establishment of a permanent legislative committee/commission for metropolitan affairs.
 - ⇒ regular reports to the legislature on regional programs for financing.
 - ⇒ regular reports and discussion sessions with local elected officials.
 - ⇒ responsible administrative procedures.

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

Fiscal Disparities: A major barrier to areawide development has been the multiplicity of local government units—more than 300 in the metropolitan area—each competing for tax monies. In 1971 CMAL supported the "fiscal disparities" bill which provided for sharing 40% of the growth in commercial-industrial tax base among local units of government in the metropolitan area. Nationally the bill was a first, and though it was challenged in the courts, it was found to be constitutional. Implementation occurred in 1974 and was reflected in taxes collected in 1975.

The 1979 CMAL update paper, "The Response to Fiscal Problems in the Seven-County Area," reviewed existing and proposed programs that deal with problems created by the differences in taxing capabilities among communities in the seven-county metropolitan area. Another update, "Fiscal Disparities: An Overview," appeared in the January 1985 CMAL Quarterly. The CMAL is currently reviewing the issue, with consensus due in May, 1997, titled "Re-Study of Fiscal; Disparities".

In 1975 CMAL supported the Metropolitan Investment Framework before the Metropolitan Council's Physical Development Committee because it furthers the goal of areawide sharing of fiscal resources to finance metropolitan services and aids in the solution of the problems of fiscal disparities. CMAL also stressed that it was a means of systematically evaluating the economic responsibilities of metropolitan government. The Investment Framework was adopted by the Council in 1977.

SCHOOL INTEGRATION/DESEGREGATION

CMAL Position: Support the following measures to achieve school integration/desegregation in the metropolitan area: mandatory participation by the school districts; voluntary participation by students; combination of student exchanges, magnets and incentives; combination of incentive plans for school districts and individuals funded by state money; redrawing of school district lines (as necessary). (1991)

HOUSING/HEALTH CARE FOR THE AGING

CMAL Position: Support for local planning for the housing and service needs for the elderly and disabled in the community. Support for the preparation of a local "Blueprint for Action." (1989)

Details

CMAL supports:

- the provision of a single telephone number at the local level for information and referral for senior housing and services available in that area. (CMAL supports the city as the most appropriate provider of this service.)
- local ordinances which allow for the provision of housing and services necessary to meet the needs of the aging.
- the provision of additional health, home care, and housing support services as they become necessary.
 CMAL supports flexibility in the provision of these services. Providers can be in the private sector (profit or non-profit), the county, city, school district, community center, the informal network, or any combination of these.

LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CMAL Position: CMAL recognizes that increased pressures for development in the entire Twin Cities area indicate the need for a strong public voice in land-use decisions. CMAL supports metropolitan-level planning, programs and policies directed toward channeling development in ways that will: (1) preserve and enhance the natural environment; (2) use public investment to the best advantage; and (3) provide area residents with diversity in choice of facilities and amenities. (1972) (Also see LWVMN and LWVUS positions.)

Details

CMAL supports

- channeling growth so that necessary public services are provided in an efficient, orderly pattern.
- preserving the natural environment to the extent possible by protecting land and water during and after development, and from development where necessary, and preserving open space for recreation, protection and amenities.
- using land in the seven-county area to implement social goals, such as a full range of housing choices, adequate transportation, parks and the necessary facilities and amenities to enhance the quality of life.
- the Metropolitan Council should be authorized to develop the policy tools necessary to implement these goals, provided local governments are involved in decisions affecting them.

ENVIRONMENT

CMAL Position: Support for a requirement that local governments adopt implementation ordinances for protection of environmental quality for review and approval by the Metropolitan Council. (1981)

CMAL Position: Support the Metropolitan Council as the agency to plan and coordinate the water supply needs of the region. (1995)

Details

CMAL supports:

- water supply as a regional system with Metropolitan Council review and approval of local plans and implementation of the water supply system through local water utilities.
- Consideration of water supply availability in shaping the growth of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and the Metropolitan Council should have the authority to deny approval of development in areas with limited water supply availability through approval of amendments to land use plans.
- Protection of water supply resource, emergency response, and water conservation as high priorities in a regional water supply plan with plans for alternative sources of water a slightly lower priority.
- Water supply becoming a regional operating system only if implementation of local water supply plans is ineffective and threatens the water supply of the region, or major regional investments are needed for interconnections to provide for the water supply of the region, and/or if supplies of water must be brought in from outside the region.
- Metropolitan Council having a role in educating the public.

SOLID WASTE

CMAL Position: Support for the establishment by the Metropolitan Council of a system for controlling the flow of solid waste for recycling and resource recovery. (1981)

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

Land Use Planning: CMAL published *The Land Use Puzzle* in 1972, sponsored conferences on innovations in government in 1973 and 1974, and in 1975, encouraged legislators to recommend enabling legislation for the Metropolitan Council Development Framework Guide. Specifically, CMAL asked that local planning be made mandatory and that those plans be coordinated through the Metropolitan Council. CMAL also supported 1975 legislation that provided funds for communities throughout the state to do comprehensive land use planning and established the mechanism for the Metropolitan Council to review the mandated local comprehensive plans.

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION (continued)

Water Resources: In 1975 CMAL addressed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to support designation of the Metropolitan Council as the agency to assist local units of government in identifying critical water areas and in implementing steps to protect them. That year CMAL also supported designation of the Mississippi River as a Critical Area, and in 1977 supported the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission's Level B Study Report on water quality and conservation.

The Metropolitan Council adopted a Surface Water Management Plan amendment to the Development Guide in 1982, which CMAL, in general, supported. It places responsibility for management plans and implementation at the local level with broad regional guidelines. CMAL adopted at its 1993 convention a study of Regional Government Structures and Management Efforts to Provide an Adequate, Safe Water Supply. Their report, Water Supply: A Regional Perspective, was released in January 1995.

Solid Waste: In 1985 CMAL testified before the Metropolitan Council and State Legislature. It supported mandatory source separation, cautioned against total reliance on high tech solutions to waste management, and supported the 1990 deadline for cessation of landfilling of unprocessed mixed municipal wastes. Subsequent legislation mandated the 1990 deadline, but source separation remains voluntary unless mandated by individual metropolitan counties.

Parks and Open Space: With CMAL support, the 1974
Legislature passed the Parks and Open Space Bill authorizing the
Metropolitan Council to set priorities for acquisition of open
space in the metropolitan area. In 1975 the Council released its
Development Guide chapter dealing with parks. CMAL testified
before the Metropolitan Council in 1976 in support of the FiveYear Capital Improvement Program for parks and open space. In
1977 CMAL supported the Regional Special Use Policy Plan and
Regional Trails Policy Plan. In 1978 CMAL encouraged the
Council to amend the Development Guide to include the Trails
Policy; the Council completed this in November 1978. In 1979
CMAL supported legislation that authorized \$27 million in bonds
for acquisition and betterment of regional parks in the
metropolitan area.

TRANSPORTATION

CMAL Position: Support of the Metropolitan Council as the single metropolitan agency to plan and coordinate a diverse transportation system, meeting varied needs, and to have approval authority over this system's major capital expenditures. New funding sources should be service related. (1983) (Also see LWVUS position.)

Details

CMAL supports:

 various modes of transportation, both public and private: ridesharing, carpools, vanpools, paratransit, buses and deregulated taxis. A light rail transit mode can be supported if assured high ridership, economic feasibility and integration into the total transportation system. transportation service for the handicapped, fringe parking, and feeder services; High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, bikeways, walkways and selected reduced fares.

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

The 1983 position supersedes a position from 1967. In that year massive highway construction with federal funding and a privately owned bus system that was consistently losing ridership focused Twin Cities area interest on mass transit and encouraged CMAL to work for establishment of the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC). In subsequent legislative sessions and interims, CMAL pressed for condemnation powers for MTC (1969) which made it possible to purchase privately owned bus companies in the metropolitan area; and adequate financing for MTC (1971) which quadrupled MTC's fiscal resources, making possible route improvements, fare subsidies, and significant progress toward a new transit system. The Legislature concluded that an extensive fixed guideway system was not economical at that time.

In 1985 CMAL supported the transfer of fare-setting authority from the Legislature to the Regional Transit Board, which passed; and supported replacing local regulation of taxis with an independent metropolitan taxicab commission under the RTB, which failed.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

CMAL Position: Support of measures to ensure accountability and visibility of county government. Support of measures to improve cooperation and communication between the Metropolitan Council and county government within the metropolitan area. (1975)

Details

- Accountability of a governmental body is obtained by the effective communication of its policies and procedures to residents of its jurisdiction. While accountability to the citizenry is recognized as a responsibility of all governments, CMAL also recognizes the responsibility of citizens to become adequately informed and involved as well as to participate in the election process. Accountability of county government would be increased by the following (but not limited to):
 - public access to the budget process where priorities and policies are set, including, for example, citizen review of revenue-sharing allocations and funding for public services and citizen review of methods of setting budget priorities.
 - ⇒ systematic and objective evaluation of county programs.
 - ⇒ creation of a public information system to ensure not only public access to meetings of the county

board and advisory committees but also more understanding of the issues being considered by the county board, by ample publication of location, time, date and agenda of meeting; dissemination of information on the procedures for citizen appointments; and publication of background information prior to the decision-making time when policy is set.

- ⇒ regular communication between county and municipalities and other levels of government.
- ⇒ full disclosure of campaign financing by every candidate in county elections.

The Metropolitan Council is viewed as the regional planning and coordinating body, while the counties are viewed as administrators, implementors, and enforcers of regional policy. CMAL believes that counties should be involved in the initial planning and policy-making stages of Metropolitan Council activities in order for counties to carry out their eventual implementation.

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

In 1973 CMAL began a study of counties in the Twin Cities area and their role and relationship to the Metropolitan Council. Consensus was reached in 1975. This study resulted in two publications: CMAL'S Seven Counties in Transition: A Study of the Evolving Role of the County in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, and the Hennepin County Leagues' in-depth study, Hennepin County.

In 1982-83 CMAL supported counties as implementors of regional policy before the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government.

May 1996

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 (612) 224-5445 (612) 292-9417

1996 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

Name:		
Address:		
Phone:		
LWV member? Ye	esNo	
Local League (please specif	ý)	
Member-at-Large?		
Why do you want to be legi-	slative intern?	
What kind of experience do	you bring to this job?*	
How does a legislative inter	nship fit in with your personal goals?	
What kind of time commitm	nent can you make to lobbying?	# hours
days/weeks	_flexible?	
Please circle your area(s) of	interest:	
Education	Election Laws	Women's/Cbildren's Issues
Mental Health	Campaign Reform	Violence Prevention
Taxes/Financing Gov't.	Government	Environment/Nat. Res.
Health Care	Choice	Firearms
Criminal Justice	Civil Rights/Equity	Housing

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 30, 1996

^{*}Disclaimer: In true LWV fashion, we expect no lobbying or legislative experience -- we learn by doing -- and no one is asked to lobby without experience first as an intern with a seasoned LWV lobbyist.

University of Minnesota

Twin Cities Campus

Humphrey Institute Policy Forum Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs Humphrey Center 301–19th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55455 612-625-2530

612-625-2530 612-625-8330 Fax: 612-625-3513

TO:

FROM:

Janna Wallin Haug, Associate Program Director

Humphrey Institute Policy Forum

DATE:

June 19, 1996

Thank you for your interest in the Minnesota Compact. Enclosed are some materials on the Compact. Most important are the four planks. Clip and save them or, as Tim Penny has said, "post them on your refrigerator door."

We are contacting you because you have expressed an interest in participating in the Minnesota Compact. Plank #4 (in the insert) and the answer to question #10 (in the piece entitled "The Ten Most Frequently Asked Questions") will provide some background on the citizen participation component of the Minnesota Compact. The most significant way in which you can be involved is to organize a citizen conversation group. This means that you will agree to host a group of at least ten friends, co-workers, book club members, neighbors, relatives, etc. on one of three debate nights scheduled for September/October 1996.

Once you agree to convene a conversation group, the following will happen.

- In late July, you will receive a tip sheet/action sheet which will provide you with some ideas on how to respond to candidate ads and news coverage which you feel violate the spirit of the Minnesota Compact. You should not feel obligated to take any action; we simply want to make the ideas and suggestions available. It is only the encouragement and influence of citizens like you that will result in changed candidate conduct and news coverage.
- During the summer you will receive announcements and updates on Minnesota Compact activities, including a possible event at the Mall of America.
- In mid-to-late August, the Minnesota Compact coalition will offer facilitator training opportunities for conversation group hosts at several sites around the state.
- In late August, conversation group hosts will receive conversation starter kits which will include readings and essays, discussion group guidelines, tips on how to watch a debate, etc. At that time, conversation group hosts will be asked to fill out a form indicating who will participate in the group and on which debate night the group will meet. (Groups will also be asked whether they will permit news coverage of their group's discussion.)

(over)

Conversation groups will meet on debate night in September and October.
News organizations will publish and broadcast stories about the issues and ideas addressed by the conversation groups. Conversation group hosts will also be asked to submit a report and evaluation of the group's experience.

I hope this has answered most of your questions. If, after reading the enclosed materials, you would like to participate as a conversation group host, please fill out and return the enclosed response form. If you have questions, you can call me at 612-625-2530. You can also contact me by fax (612-625-3513) or by e-mail (compact@tc.umn.edu).



Return to:

The Minnesota Compact

Humphrey Institute Policy Forum

134 Humphrey Center 301 19th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55455

I agree with the principles outlined in plank four of the Minnesota Compact. I would like to participate in the Minnesota Compact by hosting a citizen conversation group.

Tax deductible contributions in support of the Minnesota Compact are welcome. Please make checks payable to the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum and write "Minnesota Compact" in the memo section.

DEBATES



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417

Candidate Criteria for the 1996 Congressional Debates

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota plans to assist local Leagues in Minnesota's eight Congressional Districts in providing general election debates for the candidates for U.S. Congress. League's purpose is to stimulate the interest of the voters in this election, and to provide them with an opportunity to hear the candidates discuss the issues face-to-face in a nonpartisan forum.

The selection of candidates to participate will be made by the LWV of Minnesota and the local Leagues in good faith judgment that this decision will give the voters the best opportunity to hear from those candidates likely to represent them in the coming years.

To be considered for inclusion in these forums candidates must have:

- 1) filed for office;
- 2) met all federal, state and local requirements to hold that office;
- 3) been endorsed by a major political party or been the winning candidate in the party's primary election; or
- 4) be a minor party or independent candidate for the general election who has met criteria 1 and 2 and demonstrated clear and solid public support through evidence of a formal campaign effort to reach all of the voters in the congressional district or by receiving 5% public support in an independent, nonpartisan poll; or
- 5) have met criteria number 2, made a public announcement of write-in candidacy and demonstrated clear and solid public support as shown by evidence of a formal campaign effort to reach all the voters in the congressional district or by receiving 5% public support in an independent, nonpartisan poll.

Interpreting 4 and 5

If you are having a problem interpreting "clear and solid public support through evidence of a formal campaign effort to reach all of the voters," here are some suggestions:

Campaign headquarters, phone, campaign manager and treasurer-- significant level of financial support and receipt of contributions from significant numbers of contributors -- literature, signs and volunteers district-wide.

Decide how you will interpret this and apply it equally to all candidates.

Our decision for including a candidate will be based on:

This election
This office
This campaign

Factors to be weighed include:

- 1. Financial records
 - number of contributors
 - total of contributions
- 2. Districtwide volunteers, signs, literature, door knocking
- 3. Public appearances
- 4. Campaign organization
 - treasurer, manager, phone

LWVMN MODERATORS LIST - 1996

This list is compiled from the moderator forms and voter service assessments that local Leagues have returned to the LWVMN office since 1987. If you know moderators, including yourself, who are not listed, please consider adding that name to our file. We all need to have mederators from outside of our own districts and it is a big help to know who has some experience and lives reasonably clost to our League.

Listing your name doesn not imply that you are willing or able to fill most requests to moderate, but it does mean that you are willing to consider the job if you are called. Please let us know if there are names to be removed, added, phone number errors, or misspellings. Thank you. (612/224-5445)

Pat Allen	Northfield	507/645-9298
Ann Andersen	Crystal/New Hope/E. Plymouth	612/537-9555
Lee Ball	Duluth	218/724-0417
Rachel Bardy	St. Paul	612/333-2230
Lisa Borelli	Grand Rapids	218/327-1295
Margaret Berg	Bemidji Area	218/751-2496
Dee Bowman	Detroit Lakes Area	218/473-1651
Margaret Bressler	Bemidji Area (not a member)	218/751-2407
Marsha Brown	Rochester	507/285-1809
Nancy Brown	Northfield	507/645-4665
Joann Buie	Edina	612/941-7979
Dorothy Callahan	Rochester	507/365-8072
Mary Ann Conrad	Wilkin County (not a member)	218/643-6561
Ann Copeland	St. Paul	612/645-1160
John Day	Northfield (not a member)	507/645-4964
Marylyn Deneen	St. Paul	612/488-1426
Judy Duffy	Mahtomedi Area	612/429-9703
Trudy Dunham	St. Paul	612/227-5769
Joanne Englund	St. Paul	612/227-6132
Kay Erickson	Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins	612/934-2991
Eleanor Fenton	White Bear/North Oaks	612/429-3916
Ruth Fingerson	Arden Hills/Shoreview	612/633-5316
Marcia Fink	New Brighton	612/633-2990
Rosemary Guttormsson	Duluth	218/724-0132
Carolyn Hendrixson	Minneapolis	612/925-5079
Mary Hepokoski	Golden Valley	612/541-9801
Joan Hicks	St. Cloud	612/255-1353

Judith Hollands	Moorhead Area	218/233-2377
Lorena Hooyman	Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins	612/933-0847
Nancy Irsfeld	Roseville/Maplewood/Falcon Heights	612/633-4741
Dorothy Jackson	St. Croix Valley	612/433-3771
Joellen Johnson	Arden Hills/Shoreview (not a member)	612/636-3697
Jan Kraske	St. Croix Valley	612/439-5837
Pia Lopez	St. Cloud	612/255-8762 (w)
Deborah Louwagie	St. Paul	612/644-7447
Kathleen McKown	St. Paul (not a member)	612/227-7883
Karen Malver	New Brighton	612/636-0329
Mary Ellen Manske	St. Anthony (not a member)	612/781-4776
Jeanne Matross	St. Paul	612/646-5755
Roberta Megard	St. Paul	612/646-3827
Marti Micks	Golden Valley	612/546-7930
Jan Midtbo	Minneapolis	612/926-0954
Jeanne Nelson	Crystal/New Hope/E. Plymouth	612/544-8575
John O'Rourke	Austin (not a member)	507/433-7295
Nancy Oestreich	St. Cloud	612/252-7646
Carol Osip	St. Paul	612/645-9118
Jane Papageorgiou	Minneapolis	612/824-2180
Mary Santi	White Bear/North Oaks	612/426-5151
Maree Seitz	Duluth	218/525-5647
Catherine Severin	Duluth	218/624-3521
Faye Sexton	Moorhead Area	218-233-4797
Jane Shanks	Buffalo/Monticello	612/878-2768
Sharon Sinclair	Detroit Lakes	218/847-4223
Fran Skovland	Freeborn County	507/373-7856
Mary Steinbach	New Brighton (not a member)	612/636-0114
Virginia Sweeny	Edina	612/941-4225
Lynn Tkachuk	Moorhead Area	218/236-6596
Jane Toft	Rochester	507/288-6651
Peggy Watson	Westonka (not a member	612/476-2152
Patricia Winget	Red Wing	612/388-0684
Molly Woehrlin	Northfield	507/645-9619
Stephanie Young	Eastern Carver County	612/448-4186



action

BE A TEN-MINUTE ACTIVIST!

Make your voice heard on League issues that matter to you! Join Leaguers around the state as a Ten Minute Activist during the 1997 Legislative session. Fill out and return this form and we will notify you when the issues you want to lobby need action. You may be contacted 0-6 times per year. You can respond with a postcard or a phone call. This is an important part of our advocacy!

YES! I WA	ANT TO BE A TEN-MINUTE A	CTIVIST		
Name:				
Address:	City:			
State: Zip: Congressio	nal District:Legislativ	re District:		
Phone: () e-mail add	dress:			
Issa	ues I will take action on:			
Financing Government/Taxes	Prevention of Violence	Criminal Justice		
Election/Campaign Reform	Firearms	Health Care		
Mental Health	Family and Children's Issues	Natural Resources		
Equity Issues/Civil Rights Housing Education				
Reproductive Rights/Teen Pregnancy Term LimitsOther:				
Mail to: LWVMN Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 or FAX to 612/292-9417 Questions? Call 612/224-5445				
If you wish to receive the FREE House and Senate Senate's BRIEFLY -call 612/296-0504. For the H		:		
I would like to subscribe to the CAPITOL LETTER. I enclose my check for \$10 to cover the cost of mailing 6-8 issues with the latest inside formation from League lobbyists on Legislative activity during the 1997 session. (It is not necessary to agree to be an activist to subscribe.)				

CAPITOL LETTER



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417

Volume XXIV

November 1996

1919 A VOICE

FOR CITIZENS,

A FORCE

FOR CHANGE

1994

To: LOCAL LEAGUE BOARDS

The **CAPITOL LETTER** will be published six to eight times during the 1997 Legislative Session. It will keep you informed on League supported issues and their progress at the state Capitol.

President: Anne Borgen

Action Chair: Carol Frisch

ACTION TO TAKE:

Fill out this form and send it with your check for \$10 to LWVMN, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 by January 15, 1997.

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP
) 			
	:=:		
	- Hit		

Note: LL Presidents receive a CAPITOL LETTER.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARKANSAS

2020 West Third, Room 501 Little Rock, AR 72205 Tel. & Fax: (501) 376-7760

Tel. & Fax: (501) 376-7760 RECEIVED MAY 2 8 1996

Date:

May 23, 1996

To:

LWV State Presidents

From:

LWV of Arkansas (Linda Polk, Project Chair)

Subject:

National Voter Registration Week and Go Vote! -- League & Wal-Mart Project

The Arkansas League and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. will team up to coordinate a "get out the vote" and voter registration week from **September 14-21**, 1996. This will be the fifth time that this partnership will seek to improve the opportunity for citizens to vote in upcoming elections. The project will operate this year in all 50 states where Wal-Mart has stores; the company will provide space for League volunteers, identifying information (table cards) and publicity. LWVAR will notify each state's voter registration authority of this opportunity to register voters and provide voting information at Wal-Mart locations in their state.

The primary change in the 1996 project will be greater emphasis on the voter turnout effort. "Go Vote!" is the important message to follow voter registration. LWVAR encourages all other state Leagues to work with their local Leagues and MALs to make this an exceptional opportunity to increase the numbers of citizens who exercise their rights and duties to vote.

Now is the time for each state League to:

• Put this information in the state *Voter*. Be sure all your members know that their help will be needed to staff the sites in local Wal-Mart stores during the week of September 14 through 21.

- Work with local Leagues to provide information such as precinct locations, election hours, and any other information that is non-partisan or is considered educational (or EdFund-able) by the League. Encourage local Leagues to work with their local Wal-Mart managers and elections officials. Attempt to enlist MALs to contact stores in their communities where no organized local League exists.
- Request supplies of mail-in voter registration application forms developed by your state for the National Voter Registration Act. Be sure that League members are familiar with these forms and are prepared to answer questions from persons applying to register, so that the state will receive good clean applications.

Any questions? Ideas that might be helpful to other Leagues? Please contact LWVAR or call Linda Polk at (501) 968-5972. Let's make 1996 the largest vote in history -- and let's be sure that people know the League played a major role.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA COALITION GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

A coalition is a temporary alliance for a specific purpose.

1. When should LWV join a coalition?

A coalition membership is most useful to the LWV when it is a temporary alliance for some specific issue. It is best if the LWV serves as a founding member of a coalition so that LWV principles will be a basis for the structure. Membership in any coalition must be approved by the action chair(s) or committee and LWV Board of Directors.

Special attention should be paid to any potential coalition's funding, decision-making apparatus, nonpartisanship and communications within and without. It is particularly important that we determine that we are not lending the credibility of the LWV to a questionable coalition. At the time of joining a coalition the structure for formal withdrawal should be in place.

As a condition of joining a coalition, LWV reserves the right to withdraw the use of our name if we are not in agreement with a proposed statement of action.

It is possible for LWV to take part in loose networking arrangements with other organizations that allow us to act on an ad hoc basis and do not use the LWV name as an agreeing participant. While League members may attend networks or organizational meetings of many kinds, no endorsement of the group or its objectives is possible or may be inferred without approval by the appropriate level of LWV. (See Action Guidelines) It is necessary for the action chair(s) and the LWV president to review and approve. League delegates to networks may speak not as individuals but only as members of LWV.

2. How should we function within a coalition?

LWV should never join a coalition unless a LWV delegate is in regular attendance at all decision-making meetings of the coalition and decisions must reflect LWV principles. When attending coalition meetings the LWV delegate must not speak as a individual but with the voice of the LWV. Communications within the coalition and with the LWV through the delegate are of paramount importance.

Any spoken or written testimony issued by the coalition must be seen and approved by the appropriate action chair and LWV president. (Even with prior approval it should be noted that press conferences are innately dangerous since words can be taken out of context and the press sets the agenda.)

It is important to keep LWV priorities first in the mind of the representative to the coalition. It is easy to become impassioned with the topic or cause and oversubscribe the League's resources and/or limits of commitment. The LWV is a multipurpose organization with finite finances and personnel and bound by member consensus.

3. When should LWV leave a coalition?

Coalitions should be evaluated as a matter of course each time dues are requested and approved by the appropriate LWV Board of Directors. If the specific purpose desired by the League has been achieved, if the coalition is expanding to new issues and achieving an independent identity of its own or if the LWV no longer has the time or resources to monitor the coalition by active and continued personal participation it is time to withdraw.

Withdrawal from a coalition should always be done in writing and the reasons should be stated explicitly. Withdrawal should be done on positive terms so that future communication and cooperation are possible. State that a coalition is moving beyond permitted bounds of LWV participation as determined by our grassroots consensus or that it is not possible for us to take part in partisan activities or that we cannot afford the resources to continue. It should never be done as a criticism of the coalition but only as a statement of our limitations. We do not want to foster rumors about our withdrawal or nonparticipation in a coalition. The same contacts that were made to announce the taking part in the coalition should be used to announce the withdrawal and the reasons for doing so.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA ACTION GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

These guidelines are designed to ensure that the League speaks with one voice. The Board of Directors of LWVMN is the final authority in action policy when resolving conflicts if more than one local League is involved or when state LWV policy is involved. Remember that when taking action it should be made clear that all League action is nonpartisan. Action addresses issues rather than candidates or political parties.

I. ACTION ALERTS

From time to time local Leagues receive calls to action from the LWVMN and the LWVUS. These may be in the form of an Action Alert from the state or national League, giving background information on an issue together with action strategies and instructions. Action suggestions also appear in the Capitol Letter, MN Voter, Report from the Hill, and in other communications from the state or national League. All Leagues are strongly requested to carry out the suggested action.

- II. LOCALLY INITIATED ACTION: Local Leagues may want to initiate action. Local action by Leagues is vital and is encouraged.
 - A. The decision to take action which will affect only your community rests with your local board if certain requirements are met: In deciding to take action based on a local position, the Board must consider whether the contemplated action falls within the relevant position and whether the local position is consistent with the position of other levels of LWV. The Board will also want to consider whether members understand and support the action and whether the action would be effective in the community.

Local Leagues may take positions in their communities based on positions from other levels of League, and consultation with a Board member from that level may be helpful in planning action strategy. If action affects other area Leagues, and there is an inter-league organization such as Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, that level of League must be consulted before any action is taken.

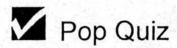
- B. Action that would affect more than one League requires consultation with the Boards of the other Leagues involved. The procedure to be followed will depend on the complexity of the issue and the number of Leagues involved. If only two or three Leagues are affected, all should agree (or have not objection) to the plan of action. If more than three Leagues are involved the LWVMN legislative coordinator or Action Committee should be consulted. A substantial majority of the Leagues involved must agree to the contemplated action. This consultative arrangement is necessary to ensure agreement on the interpretation of positions, to coordinate activities of the different levels of League, and to enhance the effectiveness of League action campaigns.
- C. Action that would involved contact with a state government official requires consultation with the LWVMN Legislative Coordinator or state Board president. This consultation is necessary in order to keep LWVMN informed about all state-level advocacy efforts and to ensure that there is no conflict with other LWVMN action.

Local Leagues may take action on the state level under a local position if all three of these conditions are met:

- 1. The legislation must not be statewide in scope;
- 2. Every effected local League must be notified of the proposal prior to any action;
- 3. Such action must be approved by the State Board or the State President, Legislative Coordinator and Program Chairs prior to any action.
- D. Action that would involve contact with government officials at the national level requires consultation with the national LWV office.

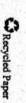
As with state-level action, the local League must clear plans with the relevant level of League. You may call the LWVUS office directly or you may contact the appropriate state program chair or LWVMN Legislative Coordinator for guidance. In general, permission to act at the national level may be limited to those issues included in the LWVUS Advocacy agenda.

(These guidelines are adapted from those of LWV-Illinois)



- . How many major parties and registered minor parties are there in Minnesota?
- 2. What percent of Minnesotans participate in the primary?
- 3. Do I declare which party I intend to vote for when I register?
- 4. It's more convenient for me to vote at work. Can I vote there?
- 5. What is the purpose of the caucus?
- 6. I will be moving on November 1st. Can I vote at my old polling place?
- 7. When I mark the check-off on my tax returns for a political contribution, can I give to a minor party?
- 8. How do I get an absentee ballot?
- 9. Do I have to be a member of a political party to vote in the primary election?
- 10. When are the Primary and General elections?
- 11. How do you become an Endorsed Candidate of a party?

POP QUIZ for Election '96





THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND
550 Rice St. St. Paul MN 55103

Election '96



Pop Quiz

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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St. Paul MN

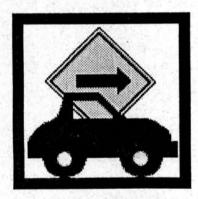


THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

THE ROAD TO ELECTION DAY

The NEW video from THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS is a guide to participation in the Minnesota political process. The video and accompanying guide book provide the answers to the questions in the pop quiz and a whole lot more.

Many people are not familiar with any part of the political process except the last step, voting on Election Day. You can in fact participate from the very beginning. All eligible voters can have an impact on which issues will be discussed and who the candidates will be.

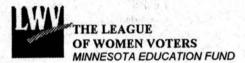


In the video, Chris Conangla and Kalley King of the KSTP TV Eyewitness News team lead us on the road to participation in the Minnesota Election process with 4 stops along the way:

the caucus the convention the primary election and the general election. The accompanying 12 page guide book to political participation contains more complete information than the video. It includes information on the following:

Choosing a political party Attending a caucus meeting
Attending a Convention
Voting in the Primary Election
Registration
Absentee Voting
Voting on Election Day
Political Party Phone numbers

Order THE ROAD TO ELECTION DAY video from:



550 Rice Street St. Paul MN 55103
Phone 612 -224 -5445
Fax 612 -292 -9417
E-mail lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us
http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn

ANSWERS TO POP QUIZ:

- 1. 3 major parties and 2 minor parties
- 2. 25%
- 3. no
- 4. no
- 5. grassroots participation in party politics
- 6. no
- 7. yes
- 8. Call your city clerk or county auditor
- 9. no
- 10. September 10, 1996 & November 5, 1996
- 11. Win the endorsement at the party convention

Every year **THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** answers thousands of questions like these from voters.



Order by Mail, or FAX. Include check or credit card number.

	ARREST STATE OF THE REST OF			
Video Purchase	\$45.00	@ \$45.00	\$	
One week rental	\$20.00 with	\$45.00 deposit*	\$	
One week rental r	nembers \$10.	with \$45. Dep.*	\$	1
MN res. add .0659	% sales tax (.07% St. Paul)	\$	
Postage and handl	ing		\$	
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*Deposit is returned when video is returned.

Postage and Handling:

1 video \$5.00 2 -3 videos \$7.00 Over 3 Videos To be billed

Quantity Discounts

10 and over 10% Discount

League / Organiza	tion	
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Last

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Board of Directors invites two members of your League to join us in a Leadership Retreat at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center on Wednesday, June 19. 1996 from 12:00 noon until 5:45 p.m.

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Dan I

We know that you are planning for the year ahead just as we are. This retreat will be an opportunity for the whole League in Minnesota to share ideas and information.

The afternoon will begin with lunch at which the Peggy Thompson and Hope Washburn awards will be given. A brief council meeting will follow for which each local league is entitled to two delegates. The rest of the afternoon will be used for discussion about the coming year.

We hope this afternoon will be both useful and fun for all of us. There will be no charge to your league. Please come as our guests. An agenda. registration form and map are enclosed. Call 1-800-663-9328 if you have questions.

RSVP to LWVMM by June 5



Registration for LWVMN State Council and Leadership Retreat

Wednesday, June 19, 1996

12:00 to 5:45 p.m.

Mount Olivet Retreat Center 7984 257th Street W Farmington

The retreat was not planned with council in mind, but we will add it in a very brief amount of time. You will receive a council packet when you arrive. Each league is entitled to two delegates. There will be no charges at all for lunch and the afternoon sessions.

The State Board members welcome you to join us for dinner and the evening activities as well. Dinner reservations can be made for \$12.00 per person. If you are able to stay for dinner, please write <u>Dinner</u> on the response form below and enclose a check for that amount.

Please return to the State Office by June 5

LWV of		
	Names attending:	
1)		
2)		

LWVMN and Local League Leadership Retreat Schedule Wednesday, June 19, 1996

11:45 - 12:15	Registration
12:15 - 1:00	LunchPeggy Thompson & Hope Washburn Awards
1:00 - 1:15	Break
1:15 - 1:45	LWVMN Council Meeting
1:45 - 2:30	LWVMN and local leagues discuss plans of LWVMN portfolios which have implications for local league planning. The emphasis will be on how we can most effectively work together to accomplish our joint mission as the League in Minnesota.
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 4:00	Continued portfolio discussion.
4:00 - 4:15	Break
4:15 - 5:00	Discussion session for local leagues on topics of mutual concern and interest. State board members will be available but this is your session. We can form subgroups by location as for Congressional Debates or by interest in a joint program, or hold a general discussion.
5:00 - 5:45	Leadership Activity for LWVMN Board and Local Leagues
6:00	Optional Dinner there will be a charge for this.

FROM NORTHWEST FROM NORTHEAST Minneapolis St. Paul Follow 1-35W south to Ctv Rd 70 Follow I-35E south to Cedar Ave. (Exit 81). Turn left on 70 and go 4 (MN State Hwy 77) (Exit 92). Go 100 miles to Cedar Ave. Turn right, go south 13 miles to 250th St. W. 31/2 miles to 250th St. W. (Dakota (Dakota County 80) (Cedar Ave. is Minneapolis County 80). Turn right for a mile also called Dakota County 23). St. Paul to Highview Ave., turn left for .7 Turn right for a mile to Highview miles to 257th St. and turn left Ave., turn left for .7 miles to 257th again for a 1/2 mile to the Retreat (55W) St. and turn left again for 1/2 mile Center. 100 to the Retreat Center. 38 (194) Hastinas **(F)** 554 66 50 Farmington Co. Rd. 70 50 Hampton 250th € | SI. W. ← 3 257th St. W. 23 86 86 New Prague Cannon Falls 23 To St. Peter 19 To Rochester Faribault FROM SOUTHEAST Owatonna Follow Cedar Ave. (Dakota County Hwy 23) north of Northfield to 250th St. (Dakota County 80 - which is 3.3 miles north of Hwy 86), turn left for one mile then turn left FROM SOUTHWEST for .7 miles and then turn left once again for 1/2 mile to the Follow I-35 north to Cty Rd 2 (Exit Retreat Center. 76) turn right on Cty Rd 2 to the first stop sign, turn right for 1/2 mile, at which time you will see a church on your left, turn left at the church and follow the signs for 31/2 miles to MOUNT OLIVET the Retreat Center. 7984 - 257th Street West, Farmington, MN 55024 (612)469-2175 RETREAT CENTER





550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417

IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 1, 1996

1919 A VOICE CONTACT: VIRGINIA SWEENY 612/941-4225

LWV JOINS MINNESOTA COMPACT COALITION

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota announced today that it is working with a broad coalition of Minnesota organizations to encourage a higher standard in the conduct of political campaigns. The coalition will focus its attention on the 1996 races for United States Senate and Congress. The group announced four "planks" suggesting principles for election participation by citizens, the media, the candidates and their advertisers.

"Disagreement is a healthy and valuable part of politics," said Anne Borgen, President of the state LWV, "but differing opinions can be expressed in open, honest and civil exchanges. Distortion of other candidates' views is a disservice to voters who want to make responsible choices about the leadership of their government. Citizens deserve to know what they can expect from a candidate if elected."

"Everyone has a role to play in this coalition - the media to cover campaign issues more than campaign strategy - the candidates to address issues in their campaigns and to minimize negative advertising - the public to follow and talk about the issues. It will take all of us to combat the mood of cynicism that erodes our communities today."

The first plank in the Minnesota Compact calls for candidates to commit to at least two debates during the campaign season. The League of Women Voters will sponsor such a debate for U.S. Senate candidates to be broadcast on WCCO Television in late October. Local League organizations will hold debates for Congressional candidates in their districts. The League believes debates offer voters a unique opportunity to compare candidates face to face in a nonpartisan setting.

The Minnesota Compact Coalition has been chaired by former Republican Minnesota Congressman Vin Weber and former Democratic Minnesota Congressman Tim Penny of the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum at the University of Minnesota. Other coalition members

include the Minnesota Broadcasters association, the Minnesota Newspaper Association, the Minnesota News Council, the Jefferson Center, and University of St. Thomas Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Other organizations have since endorsed - or expressed interest in participating in - the Compact effort. These include the Minnesota Council of Churches, the Minnesota Extension Service, the Minnesota Education Association, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the Minnesota Bar Association, the Minnesota Jaycees, the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits, and the Jewish Community Relations Council.

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Twin Cities Campus

Humphrey Institute Policy Forum

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

Humphrey Center 301-19th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55455

612-625-2530 612-625-8330 Fax: 612-625-3513

The Minnesota Compact Coalition Humphrey Institute Policy Forum - Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs University of Minnesota April 30, 1996

The purpose of the Minnesota Compact is to raise the level of political discourse in Minnesota elections. Simply put, the Minnesota Compact aims to encourage candidates to participate in substantive, informative debates and follow-up press conferences; to persuade candidates to minimize attacks and maximize the presentation of issues and qualifications; to ask news organizations to commit to covering the substance of political campaigns instead of focusing on "horse race" stories, attacks and controversy; and to ask citizens to reinstate the tradition of debates and community discussions. The initial focus will be on the 1996 Minnesota U.S. Senate and House races, with a long term goal to eventually affect all Minnesota elections. We would hope the Minnesota Compact might serve as a model to be used in other states as well.

The Minnesota Compact is an experiment based on ideas suggested by American history and on research, recommendations and proposals advanced by scholars, journalists, candidates and citizens around the country. A synthesis of these ideas was first outlined in a June 1995 Minneapolis Star Tribune article authored by Tom Hamburger, Washington bureau chief.

In late 1995, a number of individuals and organizations came together in an attempt to implement the Minnesota Compact idea. The group is comprised of representatives from the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum; the Minnesota News Council; the Minnesota Newspaper Association; the Jefferson Center; the Minnesota Broadcasters Association; the League of Women Voters; and the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of St. Thomas. The Minnesota Compact Coalition, for lack of a better term, held its first meeting on November 8, 1995 at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The meeting was convened by Humphrey Institute Policy Forum co-director Tim Penny.

In order to implement the Minnesota Compact, sub-groups met independently to develop each of the four planks making up the Compact. Candidates and journalists are being challenged to change the way campaigns are conducted and covered. Debates are being organized. And more than a thousand small gatherings of citizens will be formed to enhance discussion of the candidates and the issues. The Humphrey Institute Policy Forum has offered to coordinate the project through the November 1996 elections.

You can contact the coalition at the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum. We welcome your participation, or just your encouragement.

The Minnesota Compact Coalition Humphrey Institute Policy Forum 301 19th Ave. S. University of Minnesota Minneapolis, MN 55455

Tel: 612-625-2530 Fax: 612-625-3513 E-mail: jhaug@hhh.umn.edu

MINNESOTA COMPACT — DEBATES

Recognizing that democratic elections require the open exchange of ideas, as a candidate for United States Senate (House of Representatives) I agree:

- 1. to participate in a minimum of two public debates;
- to abide by the ground rules, format, and criteria set forth by a sponsoring organization which does not support or endorse political parties or candidates;
- that such debates may incorporate a series of newspaper point/ counterpoint articles;
- 4. that such debates may be carried on-line;
- 5. that the debates may include live audience participation and follow-up news conferences;
- 6. that one or more debates will be broadcast statewide (or district-wide) on radio and television.

MINNESOTA COMPACT — CANDIDATES' ADS (The "Ten Commandments of Clean Campaign Ads")

Candidates for United States Senate or House of Representatives from Minnesota agree that some standards of practice in campaign communications are essential if we are to maintain a well-functioning democracy, rather than degrade that democracy. Those candidates should therefore adhere to the following code of conduct in campaign communications.

I. General responsibility and ad format

- The candidate will take full and personal responsibility for all advertising created and placed on behalf of his/her campaign by its staff or related committees.
- 2. In television advertising, either the candidate's visual likeness, voice, or both will be in the ad at least 50% of the time.
- 3. In radio advertising, the candidate's voice will be in the ad at least 50% of the time.
- 4. The candidate will publicly renounce any independently financed ad that violates the standards set forth in this agreement.

II. Ad content; other campaign communications

- The candidate will use no appeal to discrimination based on race, gender, or religious belief and will condemn those who do.
- 6. The candidate will refrain from false and misleading attacks on an opponent, staffer, or member of his/her family and shall do everything in her/his power to prevent others from using such tactics for his/her electoral benefit. ("Misleading attacks" include taking votes or actions significantly out of context and/or distorting the opponent's record by the use of demonstrably unrepresentative votes or actions.)
- The candidate will document fully any criticism of an opponent or his/her record (including as much of that material as possible in the ad itself).
- The candidate will refrain from using any still photos, film or video of the
 opponent that are designed to make him/her look personally unpleasant or
 contorted or that are taken significantly out of context.
- The candidate will acknowledge that the principles detailed above apply to
 other sorts of campaign communications in addition to ads in the media, e.g.,
 speeches, billboards, direct mail, etc.
- The candidate will acknowledge that the principles detailed above also apply to campaign communications from his/her political party.

MINNESOTA COMPACT — THE ROLE OF JOURNALISTS

Journalists agree:

- to identify through polling and other methods the issues that concern their readers, viewers and listeners. To emphasize those issues in campaign coverage by:
 - covering the candidates' proposals and other policy options for dealing with citizen concerns
 - providing in-depth, explanatory articles on significant issues, such as taxes, health care, crime, and education;
- 2. to de-emphasize the "horse race," or predictions about the outcome of the election in their stories and broadcasts;
- 3. to write and broadcast stories about candidate debates, citizen reaction to these debates, and follow-up news conferences;
- 4. to inform audiences of opportunities for participation in public discussion of campaign issues;
- 5. to review campaign ads for fairness and accuracy and publish and broadcast stories detailing their findings; and
- 6. to describe to readers the news organization's decision-making process on ethically challenging or controversial campaign stories.

MINNESOTA COMPACT — CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- As citizens, we acknowledge a responsibility to play an active role in the political process;
- 2. we expect candidates, as fellow citizens, to engage in constructive discussion of public concerns;
- 3. and we expect the news media to support this constructive discussion of public concerns.
- Believing that public dialogue is essential to democracy, we commit to
 participating in both informal conversation and at least one organized
 discussion to be held in conjunction with the Minnesota Congressional or
 Senate debates (scheduled for Fall 1996).

LEGACY LINES

LWV MINNESOTA AND LWV MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

Spring 1996

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends

In 1996 the League of Women Voters of Minnesota celebrates 76 years as a nonpartisan voice for the citizens of Minnesota. That long history of education and advocacy has been possible because of the generous contributions of time, talent and money made by so many of you. A volunteer organization cannot flourish without all three. We thank you wholeheartedly.

The Legacy Circle recognizes members and friends of the League who have chosen to express their commitment and support by making plans for its financial future. Our endowment/planned giving program accepts gifts both during and after the lifetime of the donor. Members of the Legacy Circle have notified the state League of an arrangement to make a planned gift to LWVMN or LWVMNEF through a will, trust, life insurance policy, or pooled income fund. It also includes those who have made an outright gift of \$1000 or more to the endowment fund.

A Legacy Circle luncheon is held every spring to celebrate your faith and ours in the mission of the League. In this era of public cynicism about government at every level, the League is needed more than ever to encourage citizen involvement, open government, effective reform, and a sense of community. We are pleased to recognize the members of the Legacy Circle in this issue and to invite others to make a similar investment in the future of the League.

Sincerely,

Anne Borgen, President, LWVMN

The Legacy Circle was established in January 1994 to recognize friends who have made arrangements for the LWVMN or LWVMN Education Fund to receive a planned gift through their wills, or through trusts, life insurance policies or pooled income funds, or through outright gifts of over \$1,000 to the Endowment Fund.



\diamond \diamond CHARTER MEMBERS of the LEGACY CIRCLE \diamond \diamond

Hazel Shimmin, LWV Bemidji

"Because I enjoy giving during my lifetime, I plan to send the Education Fund Endowment \$1,000 each December as long as I can. The \$1,000 is the interest, plus a little extra, on a mutual fund which has LWVMNEF Endowment listed as one of two beneficiaries."

Carolyn (Kelly) Hymes, LWV Minnetonka / Eden Prairie/ Hopkins

"Many people look forward to financially supporting a favorite organization. By making a contribution to a community pooled-income fund and designating the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund as beneficiary, I have achieved a 3-way win:

1) I receive the federal income tax deduction,

2) I receive the interest earned on the investment as long as I live, and

3) the LWVMN Education fund ultimately receives the benefit."

Susan and Bill Simmonds, LWV Minneapolis

"The League has been an integral part of our lives here and in other locales. In celebration of the past 75 years and expectations for the next 75 years, we are making gifts of stock, to the Education Funds of the LWVMN and LWVMinneapolis."

Margit and Tom Berg Carol Bergeson Joann Buie Harriette Burkhalter Marylyn Deneen Ann Duff J. Isabelle Dyck Kay Erickson Barbara Flanigan Florence Gray Rosemary Guttormsson Catherine Hegg Carolyn Hymes Geraldine S. Jenkins Laurie Lown Beverly McKinnell Roberta Megard Mary Porter Sally Sawyer **Emily and Peter Schmitz** Pearl Sheps Hazel Shimmin Susan Simmonds Barbara J. Stuhler Jean and Dixon Tews Peggy Thompson Margaret Ueland Shirley Ungar Nancy Witta

Gifts from the estates of: Lillian Jensen June B. Stein Virginia J. Wimmer

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

We have established Endowment funds for LWVMN (contributions to which are not tax deductible) and for the LWVMN Education Fund (contributions to which are tax deductible.) For each organization there are two types of Endowment funds:

- In the True Endowment fund, the principal is invested and kept intact, while the income may be spent;
- The Quasi Endowment funds are treated by the Board of Directors as Endowment, yet the Board retains the right to spend the principal as it sees fit.

The Boards of LWVMN and LWVMNEF have adopted strict policies concerning the management of all the endowment funds. Donations specified as "Endowment" will be considered True Endowment. Other contributions will be recognized as Quasi Endowment.

From "Deferred Giving: Enjoying a Renaissance Under the 1993 Tax Act"

Used with permission by Nonprofit Agendas, a newsletter service of Brown and Company, Accountants and Management Consultants.

Deferred gifting programs offer unique opportunities that can be effectively used to allow individuals to leave more for their heirs, satisfy philanthropic desires, and retain an income stream from the donated assets for life.

The standard tax rate for [federal estate taxes and gift taxes] commences at 37% (after taking into account the unified tax credit exemption equivalent of \$600,000 per individual) and tops out at 55%. This top bracket was scheduled to drop to 50% in 1993; however, the 1993 Tax Act makes the higher 55% rate permanent, commencing with 1993.

The 1993 Tax Act also increases the maximum income tax rate for individuals from 31% to 39.6% for years beginning in 1993 and thereafter. In fact, the interaction of the increased income and estate tax rates can cause more than 70% of your accumulated wealth to be confiscated by taxes.

Although this has caused many to greet the 1993 Tax Act with pessimism, advantages do reside within the higher gift, estate and income tax rates. These higher rates offer greater tax leverage—deductions now have more value. With higher rates, each donation carries greater tax saving, resulting in an overall lower cost for the contribution.

DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS

Direct contributions, considered the most basic form of a charitable transfer, can offer a myriad of choices for the donor. Gifting appreciated property may offer significant advantages over cash gifts.

Donor (D) plans to make a charitable gift to her favorite charity in the amount of \$10,000. D can either sell appreciated securities with a current fair market value of \$10,000 (whose original acquisition cost was \$4,000) to fund the cash contribution or gift the securities outright to the charity. If the securities are sold, D will incur a capital gain of \$6,000 which reduces the overall benefit of the contribution deduction to \$4,000 (\$10,000 value of contribution less the \$6,000 capital gain generated to raise cash to fund the contribution.)

If, on the other hand, D donates the securities directly to the organization, she receives a full deduction for the fair market value of the securities (\$10,000) undiminished by any capital gains, and has retained the cash to reacquire the securities in the marketplace—permitting her to retain her investment position and receive a step-up in income tax basis as well.

Other strategies that can be considered in a planned giving program are: (a) donor advised funds, (b) supporting foundations, and (c) private family foundation.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

The Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) is an essential technique that must be considered in establishing a deferred, planned giving program. The CRT is one type of deferred giving strategy where both the donor and the nonprofit can profit from doing good deeds.

The CRT is an irrevocable trust, generally created during one's lifetime; and is designed to allow the donor to enjoy the income generated from the trust's assets for life, and the lifetime of the donor's spouse, if elected.

Non-spousal income beneficiaries may also be added, if desired. Upon the death of the last income beneficiary, the assets of the CRT are generally distributed outright to a charitable organization.

A major benefit of a CRT is that the property held by the trust is not subject to estate taxation since it qualifies for the estate tax charitable deduction. A further benefit is that the CRT is a tax-exempt entity for federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, all income earned by assets held within the trust are free of income tax. This may be especially useful where the donor is currently being taxed on income that is being reinvested, or where one is contemplating the sale of an appreciated asset.

We will use a securities portfolio valued at \$2 million which has a cost basis of \$500,000 for this example. You want to convert this portfolio to fixed income securities to generate additional retirement income, but doing so may subject a significant portion of the assets to income taxes. A charitable trust is created . . .

Using the CRT to sell appreciated assets increases the amount of wealth that can be transferred within the family by \$1,135,000 and provide for a substantial endowment to your organization as well.

(The example assumes a capital gains tax rate of 28%, an ordinary income tax rate of 39.6% and computes the charitable deduction by discounting the value of the gift using a 6% interest rate assuming a single life annuity of \$100,000 annually for the life of an individual age 55.)

Donors also have the ability to structure the trust so that income distributions may be made according to one's particular needs from time to time. Income distributions to the

trust beneficiaries are taxable to the extent that such distributions represent taxable earnings within the trust, notwithstanding that such earnings are held free of tax within the trust prior to distribution.

Because property contributed to the CRT passes to a charity at the death of the donor, the use of a CRT is often viewed as a disadvantage by the donor's heirs. This result can, however, be offset by establishing a Wealth Replacement Trust funded with life insurance. Referring to the example, the income generated by the CRT is sufficient to cover the premium payments to fund the Wealth Replacement Trust.

The benefits associated with establishing a CRT are:

- 1. Lifetime income to both donor and other designated beneficiaries, if desired;
- 2. Reduction in both income and estate taxes without depleting financial resources;
- 3. Shelters all taxable gain on the sale of appreciated property; and
- 4. Protects contributed assets from the claims of creditors.

With no planning, the donor effectively allows the government to confiscate, in many cases, better than 70% of his or her wealth. This result can be redirected by allowing the family to determine how it wants tax dollars to be spent on the programs sponsored by their favorite charities.

CONCLUSION

CRTs are a deferred giving technique, that as part of an overall planned giving program, permit donors to decide how their tax money will be spent and are the vehicle of choice that permit donors to pass more wealth to their heirs.

[The information in this article is distributed with the understanding that the author and publisher are not rendering legal or other professional advice on specific facts and , accordingly, assumes no liability whatsoever in connection with its use.]

From Margit Berg, Planned Giving Chair

Estate planning is the transfer of family values as well as the transfer of family wealth. We ask you to consider the League as you make your plans.

The largest transfer of wealth in the nations's history is about to take place. \$7-10 trillion will be passed on from one generation to the next over the next 20 years. There is a great opportunity for the League to participate in this transfer of wealth and subsequently to assure its continued future. Money that would normally pass on to the government can be redirected to the League or other charitable beneficiaries. A number of estate planning techniques can be used. We encourage everyone to speak with their financial planners, attorneys or accountants about charitable giving opportunities. There are many ways of making a gift to the League:

- **Gifts of Cash** All cash gifts to the LWVMNEF are fully deductible for income tax purposes.
- Bequests An outright bequest to the League, either a
 designated amount or a percentage, will reduce the tax on
 your estate. And, as with other gifts, there is satisfaction in
 knowing that you are helping to provide for the future of the
 League.
- Securities If you hold securities or other property which would incur tax on capital gains if sold, their outright gift to the League could mean significant tax savings. You obtain a tax deduction for the full market value of the gift, and you may avoid a tax on the increase in value.
- Planned Giving If you wish to make a gift to the League during your lifetime but want yourself or someone else to receive income from the principal, you can establish a trust, an annuity, or a pooled income fund. The income is available to you for life, and also to another beneficiary. Upon your death and the death of your beneficiary, the principal passes to the LWVMN or LWVMNEF. Or a trust can be established whereby the interest goes to the League for a period of time and the principal than passes to your named beneficiary. There are considerable income and estate tax benefits to charitable trust arrangements.
- Insurance Policies The League may be designated a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or ownership of a policy may be transferred to the League.

atefully wledge a beques 000 from the esta ginia J Wimmer. ister Natalie

We gratefully acknowledge a bequest of \$5,000 from the estate of Virginia J Wimmer. Her sister Natalie Johnston tells us that Virginia was a member of the League in Stillwater over twenty years ago, at a time when she and her friends were young with small children. Although she dropped her membership, she retained a lifelong interest in government and education. A victim of Alzheimer's disease. Virginia had been a resident at Walker Place before her death in September 1995. We are pleased to have been remembered in Virginia's will. Through this gift, the interests of Virginia Wimmer will live on in the programs of the League of Women **Voters of Minnesota** Education Fund.

The state League has full access to the most complex types of planned gifts through the Community Pooled Income Fund of the Minnesota/St.Paul Foundation or through the national League's Pooled Income Fund. Contact Jean Tews, the LWVMN office, 224-5445, for further information on either fund.

Non-Profit Organization Organization U.S. Postage PAID St. Paul MN St. Paul MN Permit No. 2025

League of Women Voters of Minnesota 550 Rice Street St. Paul, MN 55105

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

STATEMENT OF INTENT AND INQUIRY

I/We wish	to make the following statement	of intent and/or inquiry:			
	I/We have made provision for a planned gift to the League through my/our will charitable annuity or trust life insurance other				
	I/We would like to discuss th	e subject of a planned gift w	rith a repres	entative of	the League.
This State	ment of Intent and Inquiry is not	a legal obligation.			
Name			Phone_		
Street		City		_State	Zip
Return to 1	LWVMN 550 Rice Street,	St. Paul, MN 55103			

An investment committee provides supervision and guidance for the LWVMN and LWVMNEF Board of Directors. Members include: **Beverly McKinnell**, Chair, 1st Vice President LWVUS, former President LWVMN; **Sally Mullen**, Vice President Personal Trust Administration, First Trust N.A.; **Kay Anderson**, Confidente Estate and Tax Service; **Kay Erickson**, Director, LWVMN; **Cindy Berquist**, Director, LWVMN; **Anne Borgen**, LWVMN President (Ex Officio); **Sally Sawyer**, LWVMN Executive Director (Ex Officio).

League of Women Voters of Minnesota 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417 e: lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us

What To Do With This Mailing March 1996

Calendar

Check for dates that pertain to your league

Board Memo

Read, keep what you need, distribute to board

Enclosures

Council and Focus Registration Packet Fill out and return promptly

Local League Board list

Information for state mailings form

Adopted local program

LWVUS Convention delegate form Fill out and return to LWVMN

as soon as you can.

LWVMN.

How to Make the Most of Convention

National Student Parent Mock Election

Moderator list

Rural and Urban Together Conference

Travel With the League flyer

Distribute to delegates

Fill out following your annual meeting and return all three to

Discuss with board

Distribute to Voter Service

Distribute to interested members

Copy in newsletter or bring to

your annual meeting.



THE LEAGUE WOMEN VOTERS

NNESOTA

MARCH 1996

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417



Calendar

75 Years -- A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change

1919

A VOICE

FOR CITIZENS. A FORCE

FOR CHANGE

1994

March 20 - Board Memo/President's Mailing

21 - CMAL Quarterly Mtg., Chanhassen

26 - Budget Committee meeting, 9:00 a.m., MWB

- Members Resources Committee meeting, 1:30 p.m., MWB, small conf. room

27 - Office Management Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m., MWB, small conf. room

- Nominating Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., MWB, small conf. room

- Minnesota Compact Coalition, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Humphrey Institute

29 - Focus Planning meeting, 11:00 a.m., MWB, small conf. room

30 - State Spending Study Committee, 9:00 a.m., MWB

April 1 - VOTER mailed this week

3 - Action Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m., MWB, large conf. room

4 - Technology Committee meeting, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., MWB, large conf. room

12 - Focus Planning meeting, 11:00 a.m., MWB, small conf. room

15 - LWVMN Financial Review Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m., MWB

17 - LWVMN Council Meeting and Focus on State Spending, Humphrey Institute

18 - CMAL Board Meeting, MWB, 9:30 a.m.

22 - Marketing Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m., MWB

23 - Development Committee meeting, noon - 2:00 p.m., MWB, small conf. room

24 - Voter Service Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m., MWB

June 8-11 - 42nd National Convention, Chicago



ENCLOSURES

(included in this mailing with the BOARD MEMO; sent to LL Presidents and DPM subscribers)

- LWVMN Council and Focus Registration Packet/Matlock
- ➤ Local League Board List form/Matlock
- ➤ Information for State Mailings form/Matlock
- ➤ Adopted Local Program/Nelson
- LWVUS Convention Delegate form/Borgen
- How to Make the Most of National Convention, Tips for Delegates/Borgen
- National Student Parent Mock Election Flyer/Duffy
- List of League Moderators for Candidate Meetings/Duffy
- Rural and Urban Together conference post card/Erickson
- ➤ Travel with the League flyer/Matlock



BOUQUETS TO:

Joan Molenaar for the clever non-event fund-raiser invitation - to the volunteers from the staff and board who worked so diligently to get it compiled and mailed and, of course, to all of you who contributed! I hope you had a great evening at your precinct caucus.



STATE BOARD HAPPENINGS

At its March 14,1996 board meeting your state Board:

- Recommended with regret that the Scott County League be disbanded.
- · Approved a telecommunications plan.
- Approved Anne Borgen, Carolyn Cushing, and Jan Nelson as delegates for LWVMN to the national convention in June.
- Approved participation of LWVMN in the Minnesota Compact Coalition for the 1996 elections with the
 condition that it does not violate our nonpartisan status in any way.
- Learned that the General Mills Foundation will contribute \$10,000 to the state study and that the St. Paul Pioneer Press is willing to provide some services as well. Good news!



PRESIDENT

(Anne Borgen, 1811 Pennsylvania Ave. N., Golden Valley, 55427 612/545-7076)

We hope that many of you are making plans to attend the <u>LWVUS convention in Chicago</u> - <u>June 8-11</u>. The whole event is planned to be a 75th celebration for the national League. The debate over program and our direction for the future should be lively indeed.

I have enclosed a form which I hope will make it easy for you to report your plans to the state office. We will make a list of delegates for use by all of us in Chicago - adding room and phone numbers once we get there so we can find each other easily.

We will also try to link Leagues who need delegates with Leaguers who want delegate slots. If your League would like to be represented, but finds no one available to go this year, a member from another League may use your delegate seat(s) with the written permission of your president. So let us know if you want to donate slots or want to find slots.

P.S. There will be no LWVMN arranged bus or train ... dates for reservations were early winter ... too soon for you and for us.

LWVMN Focus and Council April 17

Be sure to make room on your calendars for this combined event. More information on both is enclosed in this mailing. Because they are separate events in the budget, you need to send two registration forms and two checks.

- Cindy Berquist and her committee have done a great job of putting together a focus with informative and
 interesting speakers from several points of view. It is open to the public as well the League and all of the
 sponsoring organizations will publicize it to their members. This is both an opportunity to share in
 community discussion of an important public policy issue and to prepare for our study next fall. A brochure
 will be mailed to every member.
- Council will be a brief, annual meeting followed by dinner with a dash of voter service. The Hope Washburn
 and Peggy Thompson awards will be announced. It is always inspiring to hear what the nominees have done
 for their communities and League, and it is always fun to see each other.

BOARD MEMO, March, 1996 Page 3

Caucus Fly Around: Sally Sawyer, the LWVMN Executive Director, and I had a novel experience accompaning Joan Grow and two of the three party chairs on a swing around the state to encourage caucus attendance. After a press conference in St. Paul, we flew in a <u>very</u> small plane to Duluth and Moorhead. The ride would have been fun except that it was almost as cold in the plane as it was outside! It was great to have Leaguers there to greet us. The second day we drove to Rochester for a press conference and had the pleasure of meeting the local board over lunch at Vera Dougher's house.

Presidents please note:

I would like to repeat some advice that I gave to presidents in the Portfolio Updates early last fall. We try to limit the amount of material that we send from the state office because we want you to be informed, not overwhelmed. So please skim through it, note what needs a prompt response, pass on what is relevant to your board and toss the rest.

While it would be great if there were people enough and time enough in every League to do all that is offered, we know that is not the case. So set priorities with your board for your League and set limits for yourself. Believe me, I know that setting limits can be difficult, but enjoying your presidency is the best thing you can do for your League.

Have a good spring. I'll look forward to seeing many of you at the Focus and Council next month and in Chicago in June.



MEMBER RESOURCES

(Jeanne Matlock, 1128 W. Montana Ave., St. Paul, 55108 612/488-0458)

The Member Resources Committee is very pleased to announce that there is now an 800 # for the LWVMN office. The primary purpose of the number is to allow membership inquiries as we try to expand our base throughout the state and for local League board use. Call 800/663-9328. We're here to serve you if we can.

At present, the number is being given to local League presidents, to State Board members and is being used in targeted membership ads. We do expect that it will overlap into some voter service calls, especially in an election year. We will try to get names and addresses for follow-up on all calls.



DEVELOPMENT

(Jeanne Thompson, PO Box 606, Riverside Ct., North Branch, 55056 612/674-2587)

Are you thinking about getting away? How does experiencing northern Greece or cruising the Russian waterways sound to you? When you travel with the League, you "see the world in the <u>best</u> of company," - other LWV members. And, the state League receives a donation for each traveler. Enclosed are flyers about the wonderful opportunity for you to use in your voter - or to send to your members. For more information, give Jean Tews a call at 612/224-5445.



MARKETING

(Eydie Kargas, 612/473-8610)

I have developed patterns for the LWVMN LOGO in 3 sizes for banners, table skirts and podium logos. The patterns require minimal sewing experience and with a little time and creativity a stunning banner can be created for meetings, candidate debates and parades. The banners, etc. can be easily made from cotton and can be adapted to felt for non-sewer or to quilting for the more experienced. Lettering is purchased at garment lettering shops that provide lettering for local sports teams. Please call me if there is interest in your local League in purchasing a product like this. If there is interest, LWV-MN would proceed with further developing the product and then would happily sell the patterns as a fundraiser.





ACTION

(Carol Frisch, 7025 Comanche Ct., Edina, 55439 612/829-0604)

The pot is really boiling now at the legislature for many of the LWVMN issues which we have been following this session. Please read the March 15 Capitol Letter for details. Action Alerts have been sent this month to support the Mental Health position to attain the best funding possible for Coordinated Employability Projects, to oppose the concealed weapons amendment to the Crime Prevention Bill, and to safeguard wetlands protection.

Additionally, letters went out from LWVMN protesting the proposal to terminate the long-range planning and citizen participation process regarding a dual track airport and we signed on the a letter from the Minnesota Coalition for Girls Athletics opposing a proposal to classify girls dance team as an athletic activity.

We have been invited by Common Cause to team with one of their members in a visit to targeted MN Congressmen to urge their support for comprehensive campaign finance reform, HR 2566. You received a LWVUS Action Alert dated February 6, 1996 on the subject. If you would be willing to participate in such a call to Oberstar, Vento, Gutknecht, Ramstad and Luther, please call 225-5445.

This year's lobbyists and interns have been very active and have gained valuable experience, whether testifying or observing. We are quite aware that next year will call for much greater activity. Particularly, we are seeking someone to add to our group who is interested in learning more about taxes, or who already has expertise in that area. We know there will be considerable legislative effort on that subject. Call 224-5445 or Carol Frisch at 829-0604 if you have a name to suggest.



VOTER SERVICE

(Judy Duffy, 505 Lake, Birchwood, 55110 612/429-9703)

Minnesota Compact Coalition: The LWVMN Board formally approved participation in this effort on the condition there would be no perceived or actual breach of our nonpartisanship. The Minnesota Compact coalition grew out of the proposal by Tom Hamburger, Washington Bureau Chief for the Minneapolis Star Tribune who wrote an article outlining a series of steps that would raise the level of political discourse in Minnesota elections. The group includes representatives from the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum, the Minnesota News Council, the Minnesota Newspaper Association, The Jefferson Center, the League of Women Voters, and the University of St. Thomas. The first meeting was convened in November by Tim Penny and Vin Weber.

The mission of this group has been gradually formed as each group worked on ways their members might contribute to better election campaigns and coverage. Candidates, journalists and citizens are all challenged to participate in issues oriented elections. Candidates will be asked to monitor their political advertising (not yet spelled out) and to participate in issues-oriented debates/forums. Journalists will be challenged to cover issues, do less "horse race" reporting and to carry substantive debates (LWVMN's role). Citizens will be asked to follow the issues and to discuss them both in planned and informal ways. The challenge is to all of us to make this a more civil and more informative election process. The initial focus will be on the 1996 Minnesota US Senate and House races.

There are still no "teeth" in this proposal except the expectation that the public will like the idea and public opinion will work to move candidate to follow along.

The League will do its regular debates which the Coalition will recognize as meeting one of the two requested Senate debates - the other will probably be with KTCA TV. There is an effort to have TV stations agree to share in the coverage of congressional debates. So far the Coalition seems to have been an excellent networking opportunity for the League. They have been willing to abide by our constraints as the nonpartisan 501(c)(3). Right now there is no stick, just the carrot of public approval.

Coordinator for Congressional/Legislative local League debates is currently being sought. We have received a foundation grant from the Martin family to assist local Leagues in producing candidate forums for these offices. The goal is to have at least one Congressional candidate forum in each Congressional District and as many legislative forums as possible. We would like to receive applications through this month and make our decision in early April. The application form and job description went out last month. Any questions, call me or Sally Sawyer at the LWVMN office.

"The Road to Election Day" - The first step, the caucuses have already occurred, but as we all know, the campaigns are really just gearing up. If you have any meetings scheduled where the topic will be the elections, this video can serve as a refresher or a learning tool in a variety of settings. Many community groups and businesses have been using the video to educate their members, clients and others. Think about how this could help educate voters in your own community.

Currently, we are continuing discussions with WCCO-TV to produce a debate with the candidates for U.S. Senate from Minnesota. The debate will likely occur the last week of October.

We are proceeding with planning our **Election Hotline** project also with WCCO-TV. This year, we will be trying something new with a phone bank on their news set and promotion by WCCO-TV news. We will be using computers with voting information that can be quickly accessed by our phone bank workers. The Secretary of State's office will work with us to program the computers and to offer training for our workers. I'm sure no one will feel bad that we will not be using the precinct locators? We are hoping that there will be many League people who will be anxious to take part in this fun project which will give League a lot of visibility.

National Student/Parent Mock Election: Many of you are probably aware of this national voter education activity. It is an ambitious project with many cooperating organizations including LWVUS in which students and parents are empowered to participate in the electoral process through a variety of activities culminating with a mock election. They are looking for more participants and would like more involvement by Minnesota people. If you are interested in this effort and would like to learn more about it, you can contact Gloria Kirshner, President, National Student Parent Mock Election, 225 West Oro Valley Drive, Tucson, AZ 85737 or call 1-800-315-8683 or 612/742-9943. (See flyer enclosed in this mailing.)

List of League Moderators for Candidate Meetings: Enclosed is our current list of League moderators.

Please add others you may know and delete names of those who may no longer be interested in being called. As the election season heats up, many League moderators will be in demand!



STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING STUDY

(Cindy Berquist, 1501 Lia Dr., Northfield, 55057 507/663-0816)

The State Spending Study Committee has been hard at work since last summer. Last fall, we sponsored the Fall Workshops, setting the state for the two-year study. In addition, our committee members have been conducting research and attending lengthy monthly meetings. The personal commitment of our committee members has been tremendous. Many thanks go to the committee members!

On Wednesday, April 17, LWVMNEF is co-sponsoring a Focus Meeting on Minnesota Governmental Spending. Our planning committee has lined up many high-caliber speakers to make this a successful event. We hope you will promote attendance among your local League members.

Our study committee has handled the coordination of the focus meeting planning committee, which includes representatives from the Humphrey Institute, Minnesota Extension Service, Saint Paul Pioneer Press, Association of MN Counties, Citizens League, League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota Association of Townships, Minnesota Business Partnership, Minnesota School Board Association and Minnesota Taxpayers Association. The St. Paul Pioneer Press will provide free advertising to promote the event and possibly fund the printing of the meeting

BOARD MEMO, March, 1996 Page 6

brochures. Also, they print the cable TV guides and are willing to help coordinate the broadcast of the focus meeting on cable television.

By late summer, our committee will complete two publications for local League use in the consensus process: Facts and Issues and a Discussion Guide.

Our committee is requesting that local Leagues reserve two meetings next fall/winter for this topic: one public meeting to encourage citizens to become knowledgeable participants in the upcoming legislative debate and one consensus meeting. Consensus deadline: January 27, 1997.

Our two prime co-sponsors of the focus meeting wish to continue their involvement into the fall local League public meetings. The Minnesota Extension Service became involved in the spending debate last October when they sponsored an interactive town meeting at three sites in Minnesota among elected officials. They are eager to team up with local Leagues to promote public meetings next fall in communities throughout the state. They are also intending to assist in the preparation of a video to be used to set the state at the public meetings.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press is also very interested in helping publicize the fall public meetings. They are offering free advertising, especially for those local Leagues in their key distribution areas. They would even link promotion of the local League public meetings with other events they are involved with to increase the scope of the promotion. They might even run a ¼ page ad listing the dates of all local League public meetings in the state. If there are other ways you can think of to involve the press in the public meetings, please contact Cindy Berquist 517/663-0816. She will be meeting with the Press again in may to firm up the fall plans. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Cindy.

We are very pleased to have the active support of the Extension Service and the Pioneer Press. These partnerships should help local Leagues increase attendance at the public meetings, strengthen our newspaper relationship, and maybe help you increase your local memberships.

Consider scheduling your public meetings in September for a highly visible kick-off to a successful year!



TECHNOLOGY

(Kay Erickson, 6000 Wyngate Ln., Minnetonka, MN 55345, 612/934-2991)

Who's Doing What in Minnesota - a new LWVMN resource listing groups, organizations, agencies, etc. involved in telecommunications is now available (see list below). There will continue to be changes and additions as this area develops. Thanks to Celeste Levie, LWVMN secretary for designing the format.

GIAC Final Principles released: The Government Information Access Council (GIAC) established by the Legislature in 1994 has developed 12 "Final Principles" to guide lawmakers as they establish and information infrastructure for the state.

The first principle says that access to government information is a fundamental right of all citizens in a democracy. The principles go on to state how government should make sure that right is guaranteed as we move into the information age.

The next step for GIAC is to take their report "on the road" to solicit public input. The council is planning 8-10 meetings around the state. Watch for more information this spring. (GIAC documents can be found at http://www.state.mn.us/ebranch/admin/ipo/giac/)

Governor's Information Infrastructure Working Group: The Governor established this 14-member group led by Department of Administration commissioner Elaine Hansen to develop an action plan for Minnesota Information Infrastructure. This group has begun a series of meetings to develop policy recommendations.

Rural and Urban Together - Telecommunications for Minnesota is the name of the second annual grassroots conference to be held June 26-28 at St. Cloud, MN. (A postcard is included in this mailing). If you would like to be part of planning the conference, please contact Jane Leonard at 612/297-8306 or 612/624-3447 or jane.leonard@state.mn.us.

Telecommunications and Information Technology Articles/Pubs

Articles available: Several articles about telecommunications issues are available. Call 612/224-5445 or e-mail (lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us) the League office to request any of the following.

Telecommunications and Information Technology: Who's Doing What in Minnesota - LWVMN publication listing various groups/companies, etc. involved in telecommunications in MN: a summary of what they do and a contact person.
Government Information Access Council (GIAC) Final Principles
Overview of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 - done by Blumenfeld & Cohen, Technology Law Group
Information Infrastructure Report Summaries - summaries of 11 studies of technology issues done by various groups since 1989, prepared for the Governor's Information Infrastructure Working Group.
"Rural America at the Crossroads: Networking for the Future" - summary of the Congress of the U.S., Office of Technology Assessment Report.
"How to Use the Internet" Packet - from the Fall 1995 regional meetings, this packet contains basic information on how to get to the Internet and what to do when you get there.

FOCUS

and

COUNCIL

Humphrey Institute April 17, 1996 FOCUS:
State Government Spending, "Choices for the Future:

Registration deadline: April 12

STATE COUNCIL MEETING:

Take advantage of the Council/Dinner package, but if you can only be there for dinner, by all means come.

Registration deadline: April 5

. RAFFLE:

A gift certificate for dinner for two at the Radisson South Shipside Restaurant.

PARKING: 19th Avenue Ramp.

Cost: \$6.50 for the entire time or any portion. Include payment with your Focus registration check. 50 slots have been reserved.

{Note: the Focus flyer says "Parking 1-5 p.m.," but it is good for council, too.}

THINK SPRING

and set aside April 17th NOW!

FOCUS

Minnesota Governmental Spending: CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE

Wednesday, April 17 Humphrey Institute, Cowles Audiorium

12:30 p.m.	Registration
1:00 p.m.	Welcome - Anne Borgen, League of Women Voters of Minnesota President
1:10 - 1:30 p.m.	Setting the stage - Laura King, Minnesota Commissioner of Finance
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Keynote address - Lyle Wray, Citizens League
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Panel: Is Fundamental Change in Government Spending Needed? John Brandl, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Policy Alexa Bradley, Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action John Yunker, Legislative Auditor's Office
	Moderator - Cathy Wurzer, KTCA
3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Break, refreshments
3:15 - 4:15 p.m.	Panel: Spending Reform - Where Do We Want To Go? How Do We Get There? Duane Benson, Minnesota Business Partnership Gene Merriam, State Senator - 49th District Kevin Kelleher, Association of MN Counties; Commissioner, Houston County Karen Anderson, League of MN Cities; Mayor, Minnetonka Mary Thornton Phillips, St. Paul School Board Moderator - Cathy Wurzer, KTCA
4:15 - 4:30 p.m.	Concluding remarks - Jim Gelbmann, Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn

Sponsored by: League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Policy

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Cooperating Organizations: Association of Minnesota Cities

Citizens League

League of Minnesota Cities

Minnesota Association of Townships Minnesota Business Partnership Minnesota Extension Service Minnesota School Board Association Minnesota Taxpayers Association League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 612/224-5445 Fax: 612/292-9417 e: lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us

FOCUS

Minnesota Governmental Spending: CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE

Wednesday, April 17 Humphrey Institute, Cowles Audiorium 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

LWV of				
Registration: \$15.00 Parking: \$6.50		Deadline, April 12		
Name		Focus Registration	Parking	Total Amount Paid

Deadline, April 12, 1996 Make check(s) payable to LWVMNEF

1996 LWVMN STATE COUNCIL

Humphrey Institute 301 S. 19th Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55455

April 17, 1996 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

4:30 Registration

5:00 - 6:00 Council

Call to order
Adoption of Order of Business
Adoption of Rules
State of the League
Treasurer's Report
Budget Report
Other Business
Adjournment

6:00 - 7:30 Dinner

Hope Washburn & Peggy Thompson Awards Discussion of next Fall's Congressional debates

REGISTRATION FORM FOR 1996 STATE COUNCIL

Please return to state office by April 5th deadline

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Council & Dinner: includes Council, Registration, Workbook, 1 meal: \$29.75

Council Only: \$16.00

Dinner Only: \$14.00

* Remember: Each League is entitled to two Council delegates and unlimited visitors. Be

sure to indicate your delegates on the form.

Delegates' Workbooks will be mailed in advance of Council.

Visitors will receive their Workbooks at registration

* Note: This form is for Council registration only.

The Focus registration form is on blue. Every member will also receive a flyer from which they can register for the Focus personally.

Please note the different registration deadlines for the two events.

Please send separate checks even though the same people from your League may attend both events. Your Focus parking reservation will be good through Council and dinner.

REGISTRATION FORM 1996 STATE COUNCIL

LWV of	Tota	al \$enclosed.					
Name	Address	Delegate	Visitor	&	Council Only	Dinner	Total Amount Paid
						WA THE	
					CHARLES C		

Deadline, <u>April 5, 1996</u> Make check(s) payable to LWVMN

LOCAL LEAGUE BOARD LIST

LWV OF		CONGRESSIONAL DIST.:
		STATE LEGISLATIVE DIST.:
NAME	PORTFOLIO	
ADDRESS		PHONE
PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT		PHONE
FAX #	E-MAIL ADDRESS_	
NAME	PORTFOLIO	
ADDRESS		PHONE
		PHONE
NAME	PORTFOLIO	
ADDRESS		PHONE
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FAX#	E-MAIL ADDRESS	

INFORMATION FOR STATE MAILINGS

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SEND TO STATE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ANNUAL MEETING.

LWV of	CONGRESSIONAL DIST STATE LEGISLATIVE DIST
President:	
(Last)	(First)
ddress:	
(Street/Box #)	
(City)	(Zip)
hone:(Area code) (Home)	(Area code) (Work)
	(3333) (
AX #'s:(Area code) (Home)	(Area and a) (Marta)
(Area code) (Home)	(Area code) (Work)
-mail address:	
Place of Employment:	
reasurer:	
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ddress:(Street/Box #)	
(Sileerbox #)	
(City)	(Zip)
hone:	
hone:(Area code) (Home)	(Area code) (Work)
AX #'s:	
AX #'s:(Area code) (Home)	(Area code) (Work)
-mail address:	
Place of Employment:	Management and the same and the same of th
changes in names or addresses occur during the MMEDIATELY!	year, please notify the state and national office
IIVICUATES:	

Board Meetings: _____ week, ____ day, ____ time

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street St. Paul, MN 55103 Phone: 612/224-5445

Fax: 612/292-9417

e: lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us

E BERGERS	-			
LWV	of			
L TY Y	OI			

ADOPTED LOCAL PROGRAM

Please complete this form after your annual meeting. Mail or fax one copy to the state office. Also include a copy of any material on local program positions prepared for your annual meeting. A copy of local program adopted at your annual meeting should be attached.

1. Local studies done in 1995-96. Did you take consensus?

2. Local studies planned for 1996-97. Include title and scope of study and note whether you hope to take a consensus.

3.	List local projects (educational or action-oriented) undertaken in the last three years. Do not include voters service activities unless unusual.
4.	List any local League experts who would be willing to share their expertise on planning and carrying out study and action items on particular subjects.
5.	Any particular problems or successful local program activities you would like to share?

Please return as soon as you know the answers

LWVMN, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

e: lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us 612/224-5445 Fax: 612/292-9417

DATE:

March, 1996

TO:

Local League Presidents

RE:

LWVUS Convention Plans

The LWVUS deadline for preregistration

is May 13, 1996.

MINNESOTA DELEGATE INFORMATION

League of Women	Voters of				
President or Board Contact Phone # Number of delegates your League is allowed					
Number of unfille	d slots your League would be willing	g to designate to another League member			
	DELEG	EATES			
Name	Address	Phone			
-					
	VISITORS OR A	ALTERNATES			
Name	Address	Phone			
	MEMBERS OF 1	YOUR LEAGUE			
WHO W		ATE SLOT FROM ANOTHER LEAGUE			
Name	Address	Phone			
-					
Do one of your do	legates or visitors need a roommate	9			
	te: Namesnd departure				
Smoking preferen					
Smoking preferen					

We will do our best to match up Leagues needing slots with those needing delegates and to match those who need roommates. Call if you have questions.

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF NATIONAL CONVENTION TIPS FOR DELEGATES

PLANNING FOR CONVENTION

- Preregistration deadline is May 13th.
- · Make travel arrangements as soon as possible.
- Make room arrangements. Let LWVMN know if you need a roommate, a delegate or delegate credentials. Send list of delegates to LWVMN. (See form in this mailing.)
- Plan to arrive early and check in early if you can. The registration lines are long at peak times. If you are flying, allow plenty of time from the airport both coming and going. Checkout and travel time can both be slow during rush hours.
- Plan to attend the workshops if you can. They are an added expense, but usually worth the extra time and money.
- · Register for tours, Dine Around and the banquet.
- Get delegate status. If your League is sending visitors, you may contact a League that is not sending delegates and ask to represent that League at Convention. You will need the president's written authorization. It is also a courtesy to send that League a brief report on the Convention after your return home.
- Remember that delegates go to Convention <u>informed</u> about the wishes of their League (or the
 one which they represent) <u>but not instructed</u> how to vote. Delegates need to be flexible on issues
 which may come up on the Convention floor wording may change as compromises and
 discussions evolve.
- Read everything in advance. It helps to use a highlighter to mark events, places and times. Some times and places may change by Convention, so check all your information when you get there. It is both more fun and more productive to go prepared. Once Convention starts, the full schedule leaves little time for catching up on your reading. Things move quickly on the floor, and it can be confusing if you don't know the procedures. The atmosphere can be highly political as Leaguers lobby for their candidates, studies and points of view.
- Dress varies. Comfortable business attire, dresses, skirts and sweaters are all appropriate during
 sessions and bring something casual for tours or sightseeing. An umbrella and light raincoat can
 come in handy, too. The weather can be very warm outside, but cool inside in the airconditioning. The most important items in your wardrobe will be comfortable shoes! The days
 begin early and late sore feet will ruin your Convention.
- Hospitality Room each evening, LWVMN delegates will have their room open for light snacks, conversation and messages. It is fun to discuss the day's events and to chat with other Minnesota Leaguers. Please bring a snack that travels well to share.
- Sleep get lots of rest before you leave. The days and nights are very full. You'll enjoy and get
 more out of Convention if you are well rested when you arrive.

AT CONVENTION

- LWVMN delegates will be there Saturday morning. Contact them if you have questions.
- Register at the League desks when you arrive. Sign up for workshops and events still open they
 fill up quickly. Look over your packets and make any changes on your own schedule.
 Familiarize yourself with the hotel layout so that you understand where the various events will be
 held.
- Read over the workbook to be clear about the schedule and timing of presentation, discussion
 and voting on program, budget and bylaws. Note when amendment items may be introduced and
 non-recommended program items and bylaws may be moved for consideration.
- Check the bulletin board for the location of the LWVMN hospitality room. It will be open nightly. You may leave messages there, too.
- Tell Anne Borgen, Jan Nelson or Carolyn Cushing your room and phone number as soon as
 possible. We will provide each of you with a list of the Minnesota delegation with room and
 phone numbers as soon as we have that information.
- Leagues sit together by state at the first session. After that you may sit where you please, but
 most people do tend to stick with their states during the sessions. One of the best parts of
 Convention is the opportunity to talk to Leaguers from all over the country between sessions.
 Dine Around is a wonderful opportunity to talk at length over a good meal.
- Caucuses can be a highlight of Convention where you can discuss ideas and solutions with members of many Leagues. Note the bulletin board as well as the schedule for caucuses - they may be scheduled at the last minute.
- Attend the orientation and parliamentary procedure workshops if this is your first Convention. A
 parliamentarian will be at all sessions if you need help with procedure.
- Microphones on the floor are designated pro and con during a discussion. If you wish to speak,
 go to the appropriate microphone and state your name and League. Motions must be written out
 ahead of time so that they can be projected for all to read. You may speak to an issue and to
 procedural points. A red card may be used to interrupt a speaker if there is a procedural question.
 - Pink and green cards are numbered and used to vote pro and con on issues. Each voting delegate receives a packet of them at registration. Be sure to keep them with you at all meetings and to use the correct number when voting on the issue the wrong card is not counted.
- · When in doubt ask!
- Have fun! The hectic pace can be tiring, but the energy, resourcefulness and commitment of Leaguers are refreshing and inspiring as well.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA 550 RICE STREET, ST. PAUL, MN 55103 612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417

E-MAIL lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

March 18, 1996

TO:

Local League Voter Service Chairs

FROM:

Judy Duffy, LWVMN Voter Service Chair

RE:

National Student/Parent Mock Election

Attached is a flyer from Gloria Kirshner, President of the National Student/Parent Mock Election. The Mock Election is a non-partisan, non-profit nationwide voter education project for young people. They are seeking groups to become involved in this year's project in a variety of ways.

While we whole-heartedly endorse this project, we (LWVMN) are not involved with this project at this time. The primary reason being a "full plate" of other election activities. There are, however, many opportunities for local League participation if you are looking for voter service projects within your own community. The St. Paul Pioneer Press is working on this project and perhaps could also be a resource for you if you are interested in participating in this project.



SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT COORDINATORS NEEDED!

- Two-thirds of all eligible voters under the age of 25 did not vote in the last election¹.
- Of eligible voters recently polled², two-thirds did not know the name or party affiliation
 of the Representative from their Congressional district, forty percent could not
 correctly name the Vice President, two-thirds did not know the name of the U.S.
 Senate majority leader and almost half (46%) could not name the Speaker of the
 House.
- Voting attitudes are determined as early as age seven.

Participate in the 1996 National Student/Parent Mock Election and help teach young citizens to take responsibility for their lives and the future of their country!

The National Student/Parent Mock Election is a non-partisan, non-profit nationwide voter education project for young people that is sponsored by the Department of Education, CNN, TIME Magazine, Time Warner, American Happenings, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, Electronic Data Systems and Xerox Corporation. We teach students and parents about the power of participatory government by holding a national Mock Election seen live on television (October 30, 1996). In 1992 over five million students (K-12) and parents in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 14 countries worldwide cast their votes after participating in what TIME Magazine called "the largest voter education project ever!"

In 1996, TIME Magazine will provide at no cost to schools the Teachers Guide to the issues that are voted on in addition to the candidates. Macmillan/McGraw Hill will provide a "How To Do It" Guide at no cost to schools that have committed to participate. The "How To Do It" Guide will cover experiential education activities such as issues forums, speech contests, debates, mock press conferences, quiz contests and get out the vote campaigns.

With your help we can transform the sense of powerlessness that keeps young people away from the polls into a sense of power and purpose. Help us make the democratic process come alive for more of Minnesota's youth by volunteering to coordinate your school or school district's Mock Election. The League of Women Voters is coordinating statewide Mock Election projects in California, Illinois, New York, Utah, Vermont, the Virgin Islands, Wyoming and Wisconsin and assisting in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and elsewhere. There is never any cost for participating in the National Student/Parent Mock Election. Please contact us at 225 West Oro Valley Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85737 or 800/ xxx-xxxx (we will have the 800 number in a few days). There is no greater legacy any of us can leave than the legacy of democracy.

¹ Curtis Gans, Center for the Study of the American Electorate.

² The survey was conducted by *The Washington Post*, the Kaiser Foundation and Harvard University and results were published in the *Washington Post National Weekly Edition* (February 5-11, 1996).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

8TH ANNUAL MN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE FOR STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

May 21-22, 1996 (with the likelihood of a third day) Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington, MN

This important conference provides up-to-date information on technologies, applications, issues and trends related to telecommunications.

Sponsored by Intergovernmental Information Systems Advisory Council (IISAC) and Co-sponsored by Information Policy Council (IPC) and Technology and Information Education Services (TIES)

IMPORTANT: Please route to ALL telecommunications personnel!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Managerial, professional, technical and support staff from state agencies, local government bodies, libraries and education (higher, technical, K-12). There are sessions for those at any level – beginner to advanced!

Features

- · In-depth pre-conference workshops
- Multiple tracks (Getting Started, People Side of Technology, Looking Ahead, Management, Policy, Technical) containing 20 sessions.
- · First-class vendor exhibits

AFFORDABLE FEE

Take advantage of a very affordable fee made possible through a grant from IISAC.

A brochure will be mailed in early April. If you didn't receive this postcard directly and want a brochure, contact Government Training Service, (612) 222-7409 or Minnesota Toll Free (800) 652-9719.

NOTE: Government Information Systems Managers Organization (GISMO) Meeting/Luncheon, on May 21, details to follow.



Government Training Service Suite 401 • 480 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55101-2240

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RURAL & URBAN





TOGETHER

Telecommunications for Minnesota

2nd Annual Grassroots Conference

Telecommunications for Minnesota Rural and Urban Together

June 26 - 28, 1996 St. Cloud, Minnesota

For more information or to register call
St. Cloud State University
Educational Conferences at: (612)255-3082
or fax: (612)654-5041
or email: conference@tigger.stcloud.msus.edu

coordinated by

The Renaissance Center for

Community & Telecommunication Development

ST. CLOUD STATE

Educational Conferences St. Cloud State University 720 Fourth Avenue South St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

Please post or share with colleagues.

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MINNESOTA LWV MODERATORS TENTATIVE LIST FOR 1996

This list is compiled from the moderator forms and voter service assessments that local leagues have returned to the LWVMN office since 1987. If you know moderators, including yourself, who are not listed, please consider adding that name to our file. We all need to have moderators from outside of our own districts and it is a big help to know who has some experience and lives reasonably close to our league.

Listing your name does not imply that you are willing or able to fill most requests to moderate, but it does mean that you are willing to consider the job if you are called. Please let us know if there are names to be removed, added, phone number errors, or mispellings. Thank you. (612-224-5445)

Ann Anderson	Crystal/New Hope/ East Plymouth	612/537-9555
Lee Ball	Duluth	218/724-0417
Rachel Bardy	St. Paul	612/333-2230
Lisa Borelli	Grand Rapids	218/327-1295
Margaret Berg	Bemidji Area	218/751-2496
Dee Bowman	Detroit Lakes	218/473-1651
Margaret Bressler	Bemidji Area	218/751-2407
Marsha Brown	Rochester	507/285-1809
Nancy Brown	Northfield	507/645-4665
Joann Buie	Edina	612/941-7979
Dorothy Callahan	Rochester	507/365-8072
Mary Ann Conrad	Wilkin County	218/643-6561
Ann Copeland	St. Paul	612/645-1160
John Day	Northfield	507/645-4964
Marylyn Deneen	St. Paul	612/488-1426
Judy Duffy	Mahtomedi Area	612/429-9703
Trudy Dunham	St.Paul	612/227-5769

Joanne Englund	St. Paul	612/227-6132
Kay Erickson	MEPH	612/934-2991
Eleanor Fenton	White Bear/North Oaks	612/429-3916
Ruth Fingerson	Arden Hills/Shoreview	612/633-5316
Marcia Fink	New Brighton	612/633-2990
Rosemary Guttormsson	Duluth	218/724-0132
Carolyn Hendrixson	Minneapolis	612/925-5079
Mary Hepokoski	Golden Valley	612/541-9801
Joan Hicks	St. Cloud	612/255-1353
Judith Hollands	Moorhead Area	218/233-2377
Lorena Hooyman	МЕРН	612/933-0847
Nancy Irsfeld	ROMAFH	612/633-4741
Dorothy Jackson	St. Croix Valley	612/433-3771
Joellen Johnson	Arden Hills/Shoreview	612/636-3697
Jan Kraske	St. Croix Valley	612/439-5837
Pia Lopez	St. Cloud	612/255-8762 (w)
Deborah Louwagie	St. Paul	612/644-7447
Kathleen McKown	St.Paul	612/227-7883
Don McRae	Northfield	507/645-8403
Karen Malvers	New Brighton	612/636-0329
Mary Ellen Manske	St. Anthony	612/781-4776
Mary Ellen Marcus	MEPH	612/949-9459
Jeanne Matross	St. Paul	612/646-5755
Roberta Megard	St. Paul	612/646-3827

Marti Micks	Golden Valley	612/546-7930
Jan Midbo	Minneapolis	612/926-0954
Jeanne Nelson	Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth	612/544-8575
John O'Rourke	Austin	507/433-7295
Nancy Oestreich	St. Cloud	612/252-7646
Carol Osip	St. Paul	612/645-9118
Jane Papageorgiou	Minneapolis	612/824-2180
Phyllis Reba	New Brighton	612/
Mary Santi	White Bear/North Oaks	612/426-5151
Maree Seitz	Duluth	218/525-5647
Catherine Severin	Duluth	218/624-3521
Faye Sexton	Moorhead Area	218/233-4797
Jane Shanks	Buffalo/Monticello	612/878-2768
Sharon Sinclair	Detroit Lakes	218/847-4223
Fran Skovland	Freeborn County	507/373-7856
Mary Steinbach	New Brighton	612/636-0114
Virginia Sweeny	Edina	612/941-4225
Lynn Tkachuk	Moorhead Area	218/236-6596
Jane Toft	Rochester	507/288-6651
Peggy Watson	Westonka	612/476-2152
Stephanie Young	Eastern Carver County	612/448-4186
Patricia Winget	Redwing	612/388-6084
Molly Woehrlin	Northfield	507/645-9619

TRAVEL THE LEAGUE

Tour Update from Travel Concepts International •

Spring 1996 Edition

See the world in the best of company

TRAVEL CONCEPTS INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATES ITS 10th ANNIVERSARY

Our company was formed when the New York State League was looking for a modest fundraiser which would also benefit its members. "So where are we going next?" For the last decade we have been bringing League members together to further the League's position of "promoting peace in an interdependent world". League members and friends have enjoyed exciting and exotic international destinations and have met with women's groups around the world.

Our tours benefit State and Local Leagues and have fostered lasting friendships. The greatest compliment is that many members travel again and again, encourag-

ing their friends to join us.

If you are not already on our mailing list, please make sure you return the tear off at the bottom of this page. We'll be happy to keep you informed of our latest destinations.

Two questions often asked "Are men welcome?" Of course, as League members, spouses or Friends of the League, by all means! "How can I avoid the single supplement?" If you don't have a travel companion, let us to try and match you with a suitable roommate.

We look forward to seeing you on one of our "anniversary" tours, and we'll work hard to make your

vacation memorable.

Gwen Erwood, LWV Placerville, CA

Swen I FAGUE

TRAVEL WITH THE LEAGUE





Travel Concepts International, Inc. — 5500 Bucks Bar Road, Placerville CA 95667 Tel 800-762-4216 Fax 916-621-3017

If you thought you didn't like CRUISES

Try ours!

Small ships let you see another culture up close

FRENCH BARGE CRUISE

We're chartering the 24-passenger vessel, "L'Escargot", for a soothing cruise through Burgandy - exclusively for the League of Women Voters. Enjoy gourmet cuisine and walks through the vineyards and wineries of Burgandy. Wine tasting of course! Explore nearby villages and medieval chateaux.

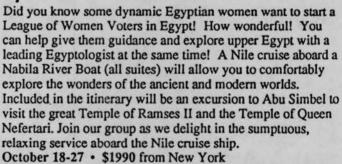
July 19 - 26 • \$2390 from New York

RUSSIAN WATERWAYS

Cruise through the heartland of Russia. Our 16-day tour explores the canals, lakes and rivers connecting the two great cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Spend a relaxing and educationally enriching week cruising the mighty Volga, Lake Ladoga and the Neva River. Leisurely enjoy cultural entertainment, music and Russian language lessons on the MV Andropov river-vessel, as well as three elaborate meals daily and a local guest lecturer. Medieval towns of Uglich, Kostroma, Yaroslav. June 12-27 • \$2466 from NY

EGYPT





Address		Telephone #
League of Women Voters Member?	Local League	
Please send the following brochures:	☐ Ireland August 11-21	☐ Kenya Safari Nov 22-Dec 1
☐ Turkey May 5-19 or October	☐ Prague & Budapest Sept	☐ Jewels of North India & Nepal
☐ Northern Greece June 9-19	☐ Ukrainian Waterways Sept	Other
☐ Russian Waterways June 12-27	☐ Yangtze Cruise & Tibet Sept	☐ Please send an update to my friend(s):
☐ Lacquered Boxes June 26-July 6	☐ Spendors of Egypt October	
☐ Scandinavia July 16-31	☐ South Africa November	
☐ French Barge July 19-26	☐ Thanksgiving Russia	

TURKEY In Search of Antiquities

Crossroads of the world, birthplace of civilizations, a country on the move! Antalya, Izmir, Aphrodisias, Pamukkale, Capadoccia and the incomparable Istanbul (including Bosphorus cruise). Meet with the Turkish-American University Association. May 5-19 \$2690 NY. Also Sept'96

NORTHERN GREECE

Macedonia & Mount Olympus

Macedonia has been an epicenter of history, wealth, power not to mention art and the simple life. We'll visit Olympus, as well as Thessaloniki. The rock-hewn monastery of Meteora and the tomb of Philip II at Vergina. Cruise around Mt. Athos. North Greece is a land of contrasts: forests and beaches, Hellenic ruins and Ottoman minarets. Delphi, home of the Oracle and the charioteer, and Athens to explore the Parthenon and the Acropolis. June 9 - 19 • \$2168 from NY Optional continuation to the classical Greek sites of: Olympia, Corinth, Nauplion, Agamemnon's Mycenae.

RUSSIAN GOLDEN RING

Artistic Workshops

Whether you admire them, collect them, or are an artist yourself, our tour "In Search of Black Lacquered Russian Boxes" takes you off the beaten path. Imagine your own private cottage within the walls of the Pakrov Monastery! See the Russian countryside and visit all four famous villages Palekh, Fedoskino, Mystiora and Khoului where traditional lacquer boxes are produced. June 26 - July 6 \$2050 from New York via FINNAIR. Combined with Russian Riverways (front page): \$1180

SCANDINAVIA

We'll spend three nights in each city - Copenhagen, Oslo, Bergen and Stockholm. You'll love the pace and the full sightseeing program. From Copenhagen, venture to North Zealand and enjoy an overnight cruise to Oslo. In Norway, listen to Nordic tales as you cruise among the fiords. You'll never forget the famous Flaam Railway.

July 16-31 • \$3388 from NY

UKRAINIAN WATERWAYS

Cruise the magnificent Dnieper, the third largest river in Europe. From the Black Sea you'll visit Sevastopol and Yalta on the Crimean Peninsula. In Odessa delight in a performance at the famous Opera House. See Kiev's Pecherskaya Monastery, the Cathedral of St. Sophia and attend a folkloric performance. The Ukrainian flair aboard OdessAmerica's 300-passenger M/S Glushkov will allow you to enjoy a relaxing and educationally enriching vacation. Outside staterooms, entertainment, Ukrainian language and song lessons, lectures and shore excursions are included. Sept 8-19 • \$2368 from NY.

IRELAND The Emerald Isle

The perfect balance between included sightseeing and reasonably priced options...capturing the true essence of the Emerald Isle without wearing you out. Belfast, a city that is beautifully ringed by high hills, sea lough and river valley. Travel along the Causeway Coast to visit the world famous Giants Causeway, the most spectacular natural sites in Ireland. Dublin with its gracious 18th century Georgian Squares and Wickow, the "Garden of Ireland". Explore Waterford, Cork and Killarney as well as the Ring of Kerry. Cross the "Land of Castles" in Co. Clare and travel to majestic Cliffs of Moher. Lastly, Galaway, famous of the savage beauty of its lake and mountain scenery. August 11-21 • \$2450 from NY

PRAGUE & BUDAPEST

Come experience first hand the rich heritage, history and architecture of these two great cities. Prague, the "golden city of a hundred spires", is a perfectly preserved architectural mix of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo. The handsome city of Budapest straddles the Danube - separating historic Buda from the more modern Pest. Cultural performances and meetings with women's groups. September 6-16 \$TBA

YANGTZE CRUISE & TIBET

Great West China Exploration

The ultimate trip for the World traveler! The long-awaited dam is under construction. But there's still time to experience the Three Gorges and picturesque villages along the Yangtze. Combine this with Tibet, the Rooftop of the World. See what others have said! We'll gladly send you the full itinerary. August 31-September 20 • \$4990 from West Coast.

KENYA SAFARI

Along with the natives, you'll be saying "Hukuna Matata" (no problem!)...This deluxe trip is affordable! The best reserves and lodges: Samburu • Treetops • Lake Naivasha • Masai Mara November 22-December 1 • \$2753 from NY.

Jewels of NORTH INDIA and TIBET

Why do you think we call native Americans "Indians"?

Because of course, the early explorers were searching for a route to the land of jewels and spices! The wealth of India became the prize of many invaders including the Moguls who left their mark in the incomparable Taj Mahal in Agra and the Red Fort in Delhi. Our 15-day tour includes these, plus a good look at the princely state of Rajasthan. In Jaipur, take an elephant ride to the Amber Fort. Continue to Udaipur for a stay at the famous Lake Palace. Fly up to the Himalayas to Kathmandu for a 3-day visit to Nepal. Our exclusive group will be conducted by Malathi Ramaswamy • January 1997

Looking Ahead...South Africa November, Thanksgiving Russia tour, Winter Wonderland in Russia January, Vietnam and Cambodia Feb'97, Costa Rica Feb '97, Spain and Portugal March '97, Morocco, Mongolia, Lapland and more!

Splendors of Egypt

with the League of Women Voters

October 18-27, 1996

Airfare from New York
 Abu Simbel Excursion
 Deluxe Hotels
 Five day Nile Cruise
 Benefits participating State and Local Leagues!



Step back into time. Journey into the past. Visit the Land of the Pharaohs. Walk in the paths of Ramses II. Venture into the heart of the Great Pyramid of Cheops. Experience the timeless adventure of sailing in a felucca. Marvel at Ramses' mighty temple at Abu Simbel.

In Egypt, the heritage of the centuries has blended with modern life to create villages and cities that are thrilling and exotic. Its people welcome you with open arms, and offer you the opportunity to lose yourself in the activity, the fascination, and the vitality of their living culture.

Travel in style! You can explore one of the world's most incredible destinations comfortably. Delight in the sumptuous, relaxing service aboard your Nile cruise boat. Your cabin is a suite! Stay in the best hotels, receive the most courteous attention, and dine elegantly.

In Cairo, meet with a group of outstanding women eager to organize a League of Women Voters in Egypt.

Itinerary

Friday October 18 USA - Cairo, Egypt
Our group will meet at New York's JFK airport for the
overnight flight to Egypt via Egypt Air. Dinner and
breakfast served enroute.

Saturday October 19 Welcome to Cairo
You will be escorted to our deluxe hotel, after which you'll
have some time to plunge into fascinating Cairo. Welcome
dinner this evening.(B-D) Hilton/ Sheraton/ Meridien

Sunday October 20 Cairo

Our full-day tour of the great metropolis includes the most spellbinding sights: the Pyramids of Giza, the mighty

Sphinx, the treasure-filled Egyptian Museum and more.

(B-L) Hilton/ Sheraton/ Meridien

Monday October 21 Cairo

We continue our explorations with a half-day tour through
Khan el-Khalili, the bazaar district, to admire the ancient
streets, houses and mosques. (B-L-D)

Hilton/ Sheraton/ Meridien

Tuesday October 22 NILE CRUISE Luxor
After a short flight to Luxor, we check in on our luxury Nile
cruiser at noon. Following lunch aboard, we tour the
stupendous Great Temple of Amon at Karnak and the
smaller -but still immense- Temple of Luxor. (B-L-D)

Wednesday October 23 NILE CRUISE Valley of Kings After an early breakfast we tour the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Queen Hatshepsup at Deir el Bahari, and the Colossi of Memnon, returning to the ship for lunch. The afternoon is free for shopping in the bazaar, but be back on board in time for tea and an excellent dinner. (B-L-D)

Thursday October 24 NILE CRUISE Esna and Edfu We cruise to Esna during the night. After breakfast we visit Esna's Temple of Khnum, dedicated to the creator-god, then cruise to Edfu where we board horse drawn carriages for the

For reservations and further details:

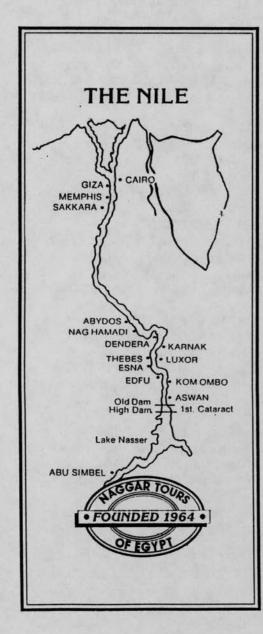
TRAVEL CONCEPTS INTERNATIONAL • 5500 BUCKS BAR ROAD PLACERVILLE CALIFORNIA 95667• 1-(800) 762-4216 • GWEN ERWOOD



short ride through the town to the stupendous Temple of Horus, the best preserved temple on the Nile. Returning to the ship, we sail for Kom Ombo. In the evening there's a galabia party. If you've bought one of those flowing Egyptian garments, tonight's the night to try it on! (B-L-D)

Friday Oct 25 NILE CRUISE Kom Ombo and Aswan

First thing in the morning we explore the twin temples of Horus, the sun-god and Sobek the crocodile god at Kom Ombo, then reboard our ship for the journey south to Aswan. After lunch we board a graceful felucca and cruise among the islands to the opposite shore to visit the Mausoleum of the Aga Khan. (B-L-D)



Saturday October 26 Abu Simbel & Cairo

After breakfast we check out of our floating hotel and board a motor launch to visit the Temples at Philae, rescued from the rising waters of Lake Nasser. Then fly south to Abu Simbel to admire the temple of Ramses the Great with its four colossal statues. Return to Aswan by flight and continue to Cairo. Tonight we celebrate a farewell dinner. (B-D)

Hilton/Sheraton/Meridien

Sunday October 27 Cairo-USA

After breakfast, we are escorted to the airport for the flight home.

BON VOYAGE! -- SALAM!

Hotels: Deluxe category
In Cairo, includes Ramses Hilton,
Sheraton, or Cairo Meridien

Meals: As listed bove. B= Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Price: \$1990 based on double occupancy.

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME, but pay an additional \$50. Nonmember fee waived for members of AAUW, Peace Links or the United Nations Assoc.

Single supplement: \$700. If you are travelling alone and wish to avoid the single supplement, we will try to arrange a room share.

Note: Price is based on rates as of January 1996.

Exclusive Features: Airfare from New York • Hotel accommodations in deluxe hotels, including tax • All outside cabins on Nile cruise • Meals and shore excursions per itinerary • Gratuities to porters and waiters

- Domestic air transportation within Egypt Comprehensive guided sightseeing, as outlined in the itinerary All admission fees for included sightseeing Round trip transfers between airports and hotels
- · Baggage handling throughout tour
- · Flight bag, pillow, document wallet and study material

How did you hear about the tour?_____

Please send with deposit of \$300 by cheque to: Travel Concepts Int'l, Inc. 5500 Bucks Bar Road, Placerville, CA 95667. Phone (800) 762-4216



THE LEAGUE WOMEN VOTERS

550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417

FEBRUARY 1996



Calendar

75 Years -- A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change

A VOICE FOR CITIZENS. A FORCE FOR CHANGE 1994

February 8 - LWVMN,-EF Board Meetings, MWB, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

12 - Invitation to Fundraiser mailed week of 2/12

13 - Board Memo/President's Mailing prepared & mailed

15 - Capitol Letter mailed to LLs and subscribers (or 2/16)

16 - Focus on State Spending Planning Group, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. MWB, lower level conference room

- Elementary Citizenship curriculum meeting with pilot teachers, noon-3:00 p.m.

19 - "Women Come to the Capitol" -- Presidents of organizations meet with legislative leadership

20 - LWVMN Member Resources Committee, 1:30-3:30 p.m., MWB

21 - LWVMN Voter Service Committee, 10:00 a.m., State Office

25 - "Women Come to the Capitol"-- Earle Brown Center, 5:30 p.m., "Strong Women Build Healthy Communities"

26 - "Women Come to the Capitol" -- 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, State Capitol

28 - LWVMN Precinct Caucus promotion with heads of Parties, Secretary of State -news conference and "fly around" to Fargo/Moorhead and Duluth

29 - Precinct Caucus promotion to southern Minnesota

- LWVMN Technology Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

March 1 - Focus Planning Meeting, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., MWB

4 - Action Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m., MWB, large conf. room

5 - Precinct Caucuses, 7:00 p.m. in your neighborhood

13 - LWVMN,-EF Board Meetings, MWB, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

16 - Freedom of Information Day

20 - Board Memo/President's Mailing

April 17 - LWVMN Council Meeting and Focus on State Spending, Humphrey Institute

June 8-11 - 42nd National Convention, Chicago

M

ENCLOSURES

(included in this mailing with the BOARD MEMO; sent to LL Presidents and DPM subscribers)

- > LWVMN Council Registration Packet/Matlock
- > Job Description for Project Director for Congressional and Legislative Candidate forums, 1996/Duffy
- > Job Description for LWVMN Community Outreach Position/Matlock, Satorius
- > Order form for The Road to the Election videotape/Duffy, Kargas
- > "What is a Major Party Precinct Caucus?"/Duffy
- > "Hot List--Interesting Web Sites"/Erickson
- > Order form re Breaking the Cycle of Violence/J. Thompson
- > "Carrying On: A Celebration of American Women's Activism" flyer/Frisch



BOUQUETS TO:

- The LWVMN staff for completing the enormous task of labeling, sorting and mailing the violence prevention study to each of us. You should have seen the office...wall-to-wall booklets!
- The Voter Service Committee for completing the new election process video and signing an agreement with WCCO to do the Senate debates.
- Linda Loomis (Golden Valley) for researching and Carolyn Cushing (ROMAFH) for editing the booklet that will accompany the election video. American Express Financial Advisors will print it.
- Carol Frisch, the Action Committee, and all of the presenters for a very successful Citizens in Action Conference. There were more than 280 registrants both advance reservations and walk-ins; 220 attended in spite of dreadful weather!.



STATE BOARD HAPPENINGS

At its February 8,1996 Board meeting your state Board:

- Approved Vikki Anderson, LWV Eastern Carver County, as a lobbyist. She has been working hard on wetlands issues as an intern.
- Agreed to support continuation of the full dual-track airport planning process and to protest shortening the timeline. League has no position on the airport.

This action will be in support of the <u>process</u> which was designed to take seven years to allow for maximum public participation. Eve Webster (LWV Northfield) and Marylyn Deneen (LWV St.Paul) who have served on the advisory commission spoke to us and answered questions.

- Approved a motion to use our position against recall for legislative offices; there is a movement to
 place recall on the ballot as a constitutional amendment this year. While we do not want to oppose
 reform, we have not considered recall to be a good way to deal with removal of elected officials.
- Heard from Bev McKinnell, LWV St.Paul and National Board, about the Initiative to Renew Democracy (the program proposed for 1996-98 by the LWVUS Board) and about Vision 2000 (the proposed education fund project.)
- Reaffirmed current LWVUS position and voted after extensive discussion to support the Initiative to Renew Democracy with one change - that this be the <u>major</u>, but not the <u>sole</u> focus, of the next two years. There was much concern about the potential lack of action on social and environmental policy.



PRESIDENT

(Anne Borgen, 1811 Pennsylvania Ave. N., Golden Valley, 55427 612/545-7076)

It is rather refreshing after the record cold of the century to be considering events that will happen this spring and early summer.

We hope that your leagues are making plans to attend the LWVUS convention in Chicago -<u>June 8-11</u>. It should be a fun celebration of 75 years and provide lively discussions about the focus of the League for the next two years.

Be sure to put April 17 on your calendars as well. Note the LWVMN Focus and Council information in this mailing.

The study committee has been working hard both on compiling information for our study publication and on planning a focus that will be interesting and useful.

For those of you who are newer members of League, Council is our annual meeting during the year in which we do not have a state convention. It is a brief meeting followed by dinner and the Hope Washburn and Peggy Thompson awards.

We are holding them together to cut down on the number of events for you to attend, but.....we surely hope that you will attend this joint event!



DEVELOPMENT

(Jeanne Thompson, PO Box 606, Riverside Ct., North Branch, 55056 612/674-2587)

The annual appeal is going very well - over \$43,000 has been raised and donations are still coming in. I'd like to thank Sue Reynolds for the outstanding job she has done coordinating the Annual Appeal. We are so very fortunate to have terrific Sue and people like her working on behalf of the League.

Violence Report: By now, every LWV member should have received a copy of the updated LWV-Mpls. report *Breaking the cycle of Violence*. We were able to distribute the reports along with a discussion guide, because of funding secured from corporate contributors for this purpose. However, the funding we received doesn't cover the full costs - nor does it address the need to send this report to local officials and others in the community.

We need your help to distribute the booklet to your community officials and ask you to contribute \$2.00 per booklet times the number of booklets needed. It costs \$2.00 per booklet to print and send it out. Money from your education fund account can be used for this purpose. Please call Jean Tews or Sally Sawyer with your questions at 612/224-5445.

Thank you for your help in informing our membership and others about the impact of violence on our society. The more we are able to educate and inform our citizenry about these issues, the better it will be for all of us. Enclosed is an order form with this mailing.

Annual Fundraiser Update: YES, we are having one! The event is going to take place on Tuesday, March 5th - (which is precinct caucus night). Yes, you read this correctly. This year, we are inviting everyone NOT to attend the fundraiser and TO attend their caucus meeting! This will be our first non-event fundraiser and we hope you will send in your tax deductible donation NOT TO ATTEND. You should receive your invitation in a few days.

See you there - NOT.

Give me a call to discuss fundraising ideas or to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.



ACTION

(Carol Frisch, 7025 Comanche Ct., Edina, 55439 612/829-0604)

January gave lobbyists and interns much opportunity for action in the legislature. Our highest visibility issue was education vouchers (SF 1851; HF 2084). On January 26 Janet Gendler, education lobbyist testified before the Senate Education Committee during its marathon seven and a half hour hearing begun by Governor Carlson's pro-voucher presentation. Work is underway on the LWVMN formal position statement opposing vouchers for private education. You will be armed with it soon, although the future for vouchers in this legislature is doubtful. We know that the issue will not go away.

LWVMN sent a letter of support for HF 220, providing mail ballots for special primaries and elections, to both the House Committee on General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections and to the Senate Ethics Committee.

We also wrote a letter on behalf of the Attorney General's anticrime legislation as it relates to gun control early in the month, and later reiterated our support for HF 2578 without the addition of unfriendly amendments which would allow for the carrying of concealed, loaded weapons.

Wetlands legislation, mental health measures, recall, initiative and referendum amendment proposals, agricultural, pollution control, reproductive choice bills are being followed closely and may call for action in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your ready support when time is of the essence.

The Action committee was very proud of the turnout and the quality of the workshops at Citizens in Action January 27 at the Capitol. There were nearly 300 in registered from a wide range of grassroots organizations. There were some growing pains evident, but overall it was received as a valuable public service by those who participated.

See "Technology" for new information about the legislative home page on the internet and how to access legislative information.



VOTER SERVICE

(Judy Duffy, 505 Lake, Birchwood, 55110 612/429-9703)

Congressional/Legislative Candidate Debates and Forums

LWVMNEF has received a \$10,000 grant to assist and coordinate local League sponsored candidate debates and forums. We are encouraging local Leagues within each congressional district to cooperate in producing a debate with candidates for U.S. Congress. Also, we are encouraging local Leagues to produce legislative candidate forums as well and to work in cooperation with each other if possible. We will be hiring a project director to assist in coordinating these events throughout the state. Start thinking about how your League can be a part of this project. Included in this mailing is a job description for the project director for this. Please note that we need the applications by April 1.

Good News - We have signed a contract with WCCO-TV to broadcast our debates with candidates for the U.S. Senate.

Also start planning to participate in the LWVMNEF **Election Hotline**. This year we will have some new and interesting opportunities!

"The Road to Election Day" video is ready for your use in a variety of settings. Contact the state office for details for rental or purchase. See order form enclosed with this mailing



STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING STUDY

(Cindy Berquist, 1501 Lia Dr., Northfield, 55057 507/663-0816)

Reserve April 17th for our Focus on State Spending. This program will be held at the Humphrey Institute in conjunction with the LWVMN Council Meeting and Awards Dinner. Information about registration for Council is in this mailing. Focus registration information will be in the March Memo and in a brochure mailed to every member.



TECHNOLOGY

(Kay Erickson, 6000 Wyngate Ln., Minnetonka, MN 55345, 612/934-2991)

Minnesota Legislature has a new home page:

Marilyn Cathcart of the MN Legislature Research Library announced the Legislature's new home page, saying:

Beginning Friday, January 19, it will be easier than ever for the public to access the Legislature through the Internet.

Since 1994, anyone with a computer and a modem has had access to a host of legislative information on the Internet. On Friday, the Legislature will unveil its home page on the World Wide Web, a more user-friendly format that anyone can navigate without computer training.

To connect, simply point your web browser at http://www.leg.state.mn.us

Minnesotans can easily access information about members of the Legislature, Senate and House bills, Minnesota Statutes, daily and weekly schedules of committee activity, staff directories, House and Senate journals and much, much more.

The Minnesota Legislature's World Wide Web page will also have links to other important state and federal government sites.

The goals of the service is to provide as much legislative information as possible in an easy-to-use format. The Legislature's World Wide Web page is a joint effort of the Minnesota House of Representatives, the Minnesota Senate, the Legislative Reference Library and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

Anyone with e-mail can also receive daily and weekly committee schedules from both the House and Senate.

To receive the Senate schedules, send a message to: listserve@senate.leg.state.mn.us

League the subject line blank and in the body of the message type the following: subscribe sen-sechedules

To receive the House schedule, send a message to: listserve@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us

Leave the subject line blank and in the body of the message type the following: subscribe h-schedules

Legislative coverage changes

Legislative sessions and committee hearings are now being broadcast to twice as many households as last year due to a change in broadcasters. Previously, Metro Cable Channel 6 carried the sessions and hearings to about 450,000 households. One million households in the metro area can now tune into KTCI, Channel 13, to see the legislature at work, according to Steve Senyk, Director of Senate Media Services.

Viewers in the metro area can see the broadcasts from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Beginning February 21, broadcasts will be available to Greater Minnesota from Noon to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, on cable systems. Call your local cable provider for the channel number. The broadcasts are funded by a grant from the 1994 Legislature.

E-Mail

The League has an e-mail address that can be used for communicating with the state League. One League even sent membership changes by e-mail. The address is:

lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us

Don't have a computer, but would like to find out what the Internet is all about?

Internet access is available to citizens at 60 Access MN sites across the state. Call the project at 612/625-2787 or your county extension office to find out if there is an Access MN site in your community.

Remember that public libraries also provide access to the Internet; check with your local library.

PROJECT DIRECTOR FOR CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE FORUMS, 1996

The Project Director is responsible to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund Voter Service Committee on matters of policy and to the Executive Director on matters of procedure. The job includes overall responsibility for planning, organizing, coordinating and advising/assisting local Leagues in producing debates and forums for congressional and legislative candidates.

Qualifications and responsibilities may include:

.A thorough understanding of the League of Women Voters including nonpartisanship and debates guidelines;

.Clear communication among all elements of the project: LWVMN Board of Directors, Voter Service Steering Committee, LWVMN staff, local Leagues, and volunteers.

.Ability and willingness to travel outside the metro area if necessary;

.Coordination of public relations efforts;

.Assistance/advice to local Leagues with:

- -Communication/planning with broadcasters;
- -Exploration and planning of debates sites;
- -Negotiation with candidates and campaigns;
- -proposal writing/fundraising if necessary;
- -publicity/public relations;

.Preparation of final report for funders and LWVMNEF.

Desirable skills: Ability to plan, organize, coordinate, and implement a project; ability to work with and supervise professionals and volunteers; good communication skills; ability to delegate authority and responsibility, ability to be articulate in demanding situations; familiarity with broadcasting; ability to research relevant background information; political acumen; resourcefulness.

This job begins April 15, 1996 and continues until completion of the final report in November. The fee as an independent contractor is \$2,500. The work will require flexibility of schedule - it is light at times and intensive during the actual times of the debates/forums.

Send letter of application and resume to: LWVMNEF, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 by April 1, 1996.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH STAFF PERSON

JOB SUMMARY: Will organize new Leagues and strengthen existing Leagues in order to encourage and enable citizen participation in communities. Reports to Member Resources Committee and Board of Directors in matters of policy and is directly responsible to the Executive Director in matters of procedure. Works in conjunction with Field Service Staff and Board. Attends Member Resources Committee meetings.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

New Leagues

- Identify, develop and follow up on opportunities to create new Leagues.
- Travel to communities where there is potential for League development.
- Make initial contacts in community determine level of community interest.
 - develop list of potential members
- Arrange organizational meeting.
- Arrange for LWV Field Service to continue original process.

Existing Leagues

- Assist LLs to develop and implement a community outreach plan (for example, Know your Community, special projects, community meetings).
- Be willing to affirm and encourage LL leaders.
- Facilitate LL self evaluation in order to build on strengths and improve areas of weakness.
- Be sensitive to concerns of LL members be a good listener.
- Provide LLs with advice and information on League process.
- Encourage LLs to contact State Board or staff for help.
- Work in conjunction with Field Service.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required

- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills.
- · Excellent presentation skills.
- Self motivation, enthusiasm, persistence.
- · Ability to handle multiple priorities.
- Excellent facilitation skills.
- ♦ Ability to encourage and affirm LL leaders.
- Ability to demonstrate sensitivity to community differences and local concerns.
- Ability to travel extensively in private car.
- Strong organizational skills.
- Willingness to be flexible in scheduling.

Desired

- Knowledge/experience of LWV process.
- · Computer skills.
- Knowledge of Minnesota demographics.
- Interest in civic and political issues.

This is a ½ time, salaried position with proportionate benefits. Salary is \$12,500. (There is a possibility that this position will be increased to full-time depending on the outcome of funding proposals.) Send letter of application and resume to:

Kay Erickson

550 Rice Street

St. Paul, MN 55103

The Road to Election Day

Chris Conangla and Kalley King of the
Eyewitness News Team lead us on the
road to participation in the Minnesota
election process with 4 stops along the way CAUCUS

CONVENTION

PRIMARY ELECTION

14 minute video with study guide available from:



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

550 Rice Street, St. Paul Minnesota 55103

MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND			Filone 012-22	Filone 012-224-3443 Tax 012-272-3417		
ORDER BY MAIL, FAX OR PHONE	Video purchase	\$45.00	@ at \$45.00	\$		
	One week rental	\$20.00 (member	s \$10.00) with \$45.00 deposit*	\$		
	MN residents ad	d .065% MN Sale	es Tax (.07% in St. Paul)	\$		
			Postage and handling	\$		
*Deposit returned when video is returne	d		TOTAL	S		

POSTA 1 video 2 - 3 vid Over 3 v	leos \$7.00			QUANTITY DISCOUNTS: 10 - over 10 % Discount
League / Organization				Ship to Address (If different)
Address				
City Date	State Person Ordering	Zip		
Payment enclosed	Phone:		Fax:	
□Visa □Mastercard #				exp. date



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund
550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103
612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417 e: lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us
http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn
2/12/96

WHAT IS A MAJOR PARTY PRECINCT CAUCUS?

The precinct caucus is the grassroots level of major party activity in the state of Minnesota. The road to election day begins at the precinct caucus which is held the first Tuesday in March of every election year. The major parties of Minnesota are the Republican, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor, and the Independence Party. As a result of the 1994 election, the Independence Party fulfilled Minnesota statutory requirements and became a major party. Major parties are required by law to hold precinct caucuses on "caucus night" complying with general rules and regulations. Each party determines its own specific procedures.

Everyone who lives within a voting precinct and is a qualified voter (or will be by the next election) may participate in one party's precinct caucus in any one year.

Participants elect the caucus chair, precinct officers and delegates to the next level of party organization - county or district. They also introduce, discuss and vote on resolutions which are statements of position on issues that can be influenced by state or national legislation. These are recommendations to a party for planks in its platform.

The precinct caucus is the first step on the road to the final selection of candidates and platforms. The next step is either a county or legislative district convention, followed by a congressional district convention, a state convention and finally in presidential election years, the national convention. At each level, issues and candidates are discussed and voted on by the delegates selected from the prior level. the Independence Party convenes the precinct caucus, referred to as the legislative district convention unit and the legislative district convention on the same evening. The legislative district convention unit is a component of the regular session of the legislative district convention.

Currently, in Minnesota, there is no presidential primary election.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND MY CAUCUS?

Caucuses give you and your neighbors in the precinct an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to you - a chance to say how you would like to see a problem addressed. It is also your opportunity to influence the candidate selection within your party. You are given a voice in the process at the most basic level.

You can introduce resolutions prepared by yourself or groups that you support. It is in the precinct caucus that the formal process of candidate selection begins and here is your opportunity to speak for candidates who may be chosen to represent your party in the general election in November.

You may take an active role by becoming a delegate to the next level of meetings or you may choose to go only to observe the process.

You may take time off work to attend your precinct caucus after giving your employer 10 days written notice and shall suffer no penalty or deduction from salary or wages on account of absence other than a deduction for the actual time absent from work.

HOW DO I DECIDE WHICH PARTY CAUCUS TO ATTEND?

Find out the positions of the parties on issues that are important to you and decide if you are in general agreement with one of the parties. Have you voted more often in the past for one party's candidates? Do you plan to support one party's candidates this year?

When you sign in at a caucus, you will be stating that you do support the basic tenets of that party, have done so in the past or plan to in the next election. This is not a lifetime commitment, nor even an absolute requirement to vote for only one party at the general election.

You may also go as an observer and not vote.

Primary elections, however, do require that you vote for only one party's candidates.

WHAT ABOUT MINOR PARTIES?

Minor political parties do not participate in the caucus system. They may have an influence on the outcome of elections by voting on election day, but they have little influence on the selection of candidates or positions on issues. Voting is still very important, however. Minor party candidates do not follow this process to get on the general election ballot. Their names are placed on the ballot upon submission of an election petition bearing the names of eligible Minnesota voters by a certain date. The number of signatures required is dependent upon the office. If you have questions about this process, call the Secretary of State, Elections Division at 612/296-2803.

WHERE AND WHEN ARE THE CAUCUSES HELD?

Caucuses for the major parties occur the first Tuesday in March at 7:00 p.m. in every voting precinct of the state. In 1996, caucuses will be held on March 5.

The location of your precinct's caucus will be announced in the newspapers the week of February 26. You may also call your county auditor or party's headquarters for this information.

All sites must be accessible to the elderly and the disabled unless there are none available. If you have special needs or questions about your assigned site, call the party headquarters.

Republican Headquarters - 612/222-0022 Democratic-Farmer-Labor Headquarters - 612/293-1200 Independence Party Headquarters - 612/939-6601

For TDD service to contact the parties, you may call (metro) 297-5353 or (greater Minnesota) 1-800-657-3529.

County Auditor numbers are located in the blue section (government offices) of your telephone book.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CAUCUS?

There are some variations in how a caucus operates, but all do so under state regulation and according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Sign-in: Upon arrival at the caucus site, you will be asked to sign your name and address on a sheet that states that the undersigned agree with party principles and intend to support party candidates in the coming election.

Before the caucus convenes: Go early. This is the time when people are passing out copies of the resolutions they hope will be adopted and looking for support for delegates and candidates. If you want to be a part of this, come prepared. Bring copies of your own resolutions, try to bring people who support your positions to the caucus or identify supporters there. Ask an experienced caucus goer to advise you on strategy. If all of this seems too complicated, just go to watch the first time.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: at 7:00 p.m. all caucuses in the state are convened. Adjournment occurs when all of the business is completed.

- 1. The first order of business is the election of the caucus chair and the precinct officers. There are two-year positions involving campaign work, fund raising and organization. You may nominate yourself.
- 2. Next is the election of delegates and alternates to the county or district conventions. Election of delegates can begin no sooner than ½ hour and no later than 1 hour after the start of the caucus. You may nominate yourself or another who shares your views. It is important to question nominees about their qualifications and stands on issues. Ask the chair if each might make a short speech. Be prepared to make one if you decide to run. The number of delegates from each precinct is set by the party. All voting is by secret ballot.

Each party may use different rules for selecting delegates. The Republicans use the plurality method - nominees who get the most votes become the delegates. Winners take all. Alternates can either be those with fewer votes or be selected by separate balloting.

The DFL may use either the plurality method or proportional voting - a method that gives subgroups in the caucus a share of the delegates. Use of that method is voted on at the caucus. Those who wish to form a subcaucus designate a candidate or an issue or both. There must be enough people in each group to entitle them to a delegate. The necessary numbers and the time limit for forming subcaucuses will be explained by the chair.

The Independence Party conducts its meetings in a manner that complies with the Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules that pertain to political party precinct caucuses and legislative district conventions.

Some of the delegates will serve on committees to plan the next convention. In the DFL they are elected by the caucus or appointed by the chair. In the Republican Party, they are appointed by county or district officers. The Independence Party elects state delegates and local delegates.

The committees are: Credentials, Rules, and Resolutions. If you are chosen to be a delegate and would like to serve on a committee, inform the chair.

3. Resolutions relating to state or national issues that might be affected by legislation come next. They must be in written form. They are read, seconded, debated and voted on by a voice vote. There is a time limit for discussion both pro and con - the chair sets the rules of debate unless overturned by majority vote. If passed, resolutions are forwarded to the convention at the next level.

Caucus must last at least one hour.

Further questions regarding the caucuses or the election in general may be directed to the Secretary of State's office at 612/296-2803.

Important dates for the 1996 election year:

Tuesday, March 5, Precinct Caucuses

July 2, - July 16, Filing period for candidates for state or federal offices

Tuesday, August 20, last date to register to vote for Primary Election

Tuesday, September 10, State Partisan Primary Election

Tuesday, October 15, last date to register to vote for General Election

Tuesday, November 4, General Election

HOT LIST Interesting Web Sites 2/14/96

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

http://www.freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn/

League of Women Voters of the United States

http://www.lwv.org/~lwvus/

Access Minnesota Project: a project that will provide 60 Minnesota communities with improved access to the Internet through the use of public information terminals.

http://www.mes.umn.edu/accessmn/

Election 96: a jumping point to Internet resources related to the upcoming 1996 Presidential Election. this page is nonpartisan; however, many of the links on this page may lead to partisan pages.

http://dodo.crown.net/~mpg/election/96.html

FedWorld Information Network: a one-stop source of U.S. Government documents and information of all kinds.

http://www.fedworld.gov/

Electronic Newsstand: an Internet source for the widest selection of articles from the world's leading magazines, newsletters, newspapers, catalogues and more! Presents a comprehensive source of political and government information. Here you'll find the largest collection of publications devoted to covering politics, public policy, the media and the forthcoming 1996 U.S. Presidential election. Also included are links to government agencies, international organizations, states and political parties.

http://www.enews.com

Government & Politics

http://freenet.msp.mn.us/govt/

Minnesota E-Democracy

http://freenet.msp.mn.us/govt/e-democracy/

Yahoo

http://www.yahoo.com/

Internet Tour

http://www.globalcenter.net/gcweb/tour.html

The Lighthouse Weather Server

http://the-tech.mit.edu/Weather/

The River Project: makes Internet access affordable for nonprofit, civic and government agencies and to make the Internet available for free or low prices. Their newsletter includes information on the Project, tips for connecting and upgrading Internet software, how to get help, etc.

http://www.mtn.org

Government Printing Office: Federal Government information, including congressional Record and Federal Register is available on-line.

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/

Information on accessing these data bases is available by e-mail:

help@eids05.eids.gpo.gov Phone: 202/512-1530 FAX: 202/512-1262

Internet Hunt: an Internet treasure hunt

http://www.hunt.org/

Thomas: Federal legislative information on the Internet

http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.html

White House: http://www.whitehouse.gov

Bureau of Labor Statistics (LABSTAT):

http://stats/bls.gov/b/shome.htm

Census Bureau:

http://www.census.gov

MN Government Information Access Council (GIAC): draft documents are available on the web.

http://www.state.mn.us/ebranch/admin/ipo/giac/

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

To:	LWVMNEF	From: LWV of				
	550 Rice Street St. Paul, Mn 55103	Name:				
612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417		Address:				
		Phone: (day) (eve				
		Date:				
Num	ber of copies for members at	2.00 each				
Num	ber of copies for community of	istribution at \$2.00 each				
Publ	ications for members will be n	ailed directly to each member.				
0		munity Bookrate Other				
		AKE A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION:				
Cont	ribution to LWVMNEF for Bi	eaking the Cycle of Violence project				
Amo	ount enclosed \$					
USE	THIS SECTION IF YOU WILL M	AKE A CONTRIBUTION FROM YOUR EDUCATION FUND ACCOUNT:				
	Request for Cash	Advance from Local League Education Fund Account				
Note	: Your Distribution of copies	must include members of the community if using Ed Fund Money.				
Note	: Local League must have mo	ney in LWVMNEF account before requesting advance.				
LWV	/ of					
Requ	nests cash advance of \$	for Breaking the Cycle of Violence.				
(For	LWVMNEF office use only)					
Appı	roved on by	Cast (\$) advanced on by				
Bille	d on Invice #	on by				
Loca	l League account reduced by	; Balance in Local League Account \$				

In recognition of 75 years of U.S. women's suffrage -The Center for Advanced Feminist Studies at the University of Minnesota presents



CARRYING ON:

A CELEBRATION

OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S

ACTIVISM

Thursday, February 29 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. Hubert H. Humphrey Center University of Minnesota

4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Plenary Session, Cowles Auditorium

Legacies of the Suffrage Struggle, Sara Evans, professor, Department of History and author of Born for Liberty: A History of American Women and Personal Politics

Getting It Together, Mattie Clark, African-American storyteller and community organizer with 25 years experience in grassroots neighborhood groups and churches

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Discussion Groups

1) Invisible Labor: Expanding the definition of activism to encompass the diversity of women's interests, Facilitator: Sharon Doherty, McCarthy Center for Women

2 Linking the political and the economic: Exploring the partical consequences of omen's economic disadvantage, Facilitator: Sally Kenney, Center on Women & Public Policy, U of M

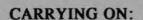
- 3) Surviving the backlash: Using history as a guide for present day activism and citizenship renewal, Facilitator: Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, Speech-Communication Department, U of M
- 4) Sisterhood: Drawing support, ideas, encouragement from the international women's movement, Facilitator: Connie Sullivan, Spanish-Portuguese Dept, U of M

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Reception, Humphrey Center Atrium
"Fashion Show" by The Closet Activists
from the College of St. Catherine

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and is supported by funding from the Center for Advanced Feminist Studies, the CLA Scholarly Events Fund and the Building Bridges Fund of the University of Minnesota.

Please RSVP to the Center for Advanced Feminist Studies at 626-0873 by February 26th and indicate the discussion group you would like to attend. If you would like information on disability accommodations, please leave a phone number where you can be reached during the day.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.



A CELEBRATION OF

AMERICAN WOMEN'S ACTIVISM

Sponsored by: The Center for Advanced Feminist Studies at the University of Minnesota, The League of Women Voters of Minnesota, The Abigail McCarthy Center at the College of St. Catherine, and The Upper Midwest Women's History Center at Hamline University.



Election '96

he biggest story of this year will be Election '96. The results of this historic election will inevitably set priorities for our families' lives in the next century. It also promises to prove the truth of the

Ladies' Home Journal slogan—"Never underestimate the power of a woman." Many commentators believe the deciding factor in this



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THE LEAGUE WOMEN VOTERS

NESOTA

550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417

JANUARY 1996



Calendar

75 Years -- A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change

1919 A VOICE FOR CITIZENS, A FORCE FOR CHANGE

1994

January 15 - Martin Luther King Day, LWVMN Office open

- preparation of Board Memo/President's Mailing

16 - Minnesota State Legislature convenes

- Breaking the Cycle of Violence mailing to members, contributors

- Member Resources Committee Meeting, 1:00 p.m., MWB

17 - Focus Planning Meeting at Humphrey Institute, 11:30 a.m.

- Minnesota Women's Building Partnership Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

18 - LWV of St. Paul Circle of Leadership Lunch

- LWVMN Technology Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- Spending Study Sub-Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., LWVMN Office

- LWVMN field service visit to Brainerd

19 - Deadline for "Citizens in Action" Workshop Registrations

23 - Voter Service Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - noon, LWVMN Office

 25 - CMAL Quarterly Meeting on Fiscal Disparities, Phalen Golf Course Club House, 1615 Phalen Dr.

27 - "Citizens in Action" Workshops, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Capitol

29 - Capitol Letter production

31 - Office Management Committee, 9:30 a.m., MWB

- February 3 Spending Study Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m. noon,
 - Meeting of West Metro Area Leagues, 9:30 a.m. (where?)

5 - Action Committee Meeting, MWB, 9:30 a.m.

- Development Committee Meeting, MWB, 2:00 4:00 p.m.
- 8 LWVMN,-EF Board Meetings, MWB, 10:00a.m. 2:00 p.m.

9 - Invitation to Fundraiser mailed 2/9 or 2/12

- 12 Board Memo/President's Mailing prepared & mailed
- 24 & 25 "Women Come to the Capitol" (see enclosed flyer)

March 5 - Precinct Caucuses, 7:00 p.m. in your neighborhood

- April 17 LWVMN Council Meeting and Focus on State Spending, Humphrey Institute (watch for further information!)
- June 8-11 42nd National Convention, Chicago



ENCLOSURES

(included in this mailing with the BOARD MEMO; sent to LL Presidents and DPM subscribers)

- ➤ "Women Come to the Capitol" brochure/Frisch
- > Capitol Letter subscription form/Frisch
- >> Setting Myths Aside: The Consequences of School Vouchers, Minnesota School Boards Association/Frisch
- ➤ Interesting Web Sites on the Internet/Erickson
- ➤ Draft Telecommunications Plan/ Erickson
- > Candidate Selection Criteria in the 1996 Preprimary and General Election Debates/Duffy
- > Policy Re LWVMN Management of Local League Candidate Forums on Statewide Offices/Duffy
- ➤ Letter and order form re *The Road to the Election* videotape/Duffy
- ➤ Local League Programs and Advocacy for 1996/Dinneen, Nelson
- > NET BAG Save the Environment/LWV Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove
- > Nomination forms for the 1996 Hope Washburn and Peggy Thompson Awards/Cooper



BOUQUETS TO:

- Jan Nelson and Mary Dinneen for their calling project to find out about local League program.
 They would give bouquets to the Leaguers they talked to as well for great conversations and for all the work that you do.
- A great group of interns on the Action Committee ... they keep us all on our toes.



STATE BOARD HAPPENINGS

At its January 11, 1996 meeting, your state Board:

- * Adopted criteria for 1996 candidate debates;
- * Agreed to participate in e-democracy electronic debates for US Senate;
- * Approved a suggested motion from the Action Committee that LWVMN actively oppose school vouchers for K-12 education because the League believes that the focus of state resources should be on continuing to improve the system that serves all children;
- * Nominated Peggy Lucas for the LWVUS grassroots leader award;
- * Heard a report from Barbara Stuhler and Harriette Burkhalter on the progress of the 19th Amendment Committee's efforts to get a memorial to women's suffrage at the state capitol;
- * Heard a report from Liz Ebbott on the progress of the 5th edition of Indians in Minnesota.



PRESIDENT

(Anne Borgen, 1811 Pennsylvania Ave. N., Golden Valley, 55427 612/545-7076)

Happy 1996! I hope your holiday season was a good one and that you are refreshed and ready to return to the challenges and opportunities of League in the months to come.

The state Board is preparing for busy days ahead.

BOARD MEMO, January, 1996 (Page 3)

Action

Carol Frisch and the Action Committee are hard at work on issues for the legislative session and on the Citizens in Action Workshop (January 27) and Women Come to the Capitol (February 25 & 26). See the calendar for dates. You received information on CIA earlier and the red flyer (enclosed) describes WCTTC. We have just hired an Action Coordinator, Meg Mannix. While we will all miss Nancy Witta, I know we will enjoy getting to know and working with Meg, too. She is a new member of LWV Edina.

Voter Service

Judy Duffy and her committee have a full schedule of voter service projects for the 1996 election season ahead. Virginia Sweeny and Linda Loomis have been working with KSTP TV on the election process video which will be ready by the end of the month. The video, about 20 minutes long, outlines the election process from the caucuses through the general election and also includes information on voter registration. It does not have the detailed caucus information of the previous tape, but the accompanying booklet will have more details. We still have copies of the 1987 tape for those of you who specifically want to do caucus training, but you will need to ask for the new booklet to add information on the Independence Party. Call the office to check on the date this will be available if you plan to use it soon.

Member Resources

Jean Matlock, Linda Satorius and Peggy Thompson have the pleasure of a trip to Brainerd this month to plan the first steps of a new Brainerd Area League! It will begin as a state unit until the members are ready to move ahead to full local League status.

Council and Spring Focus

Cindy Berquist and her study committee have been working on the Spring Focus. It will be held at the Humphrey Institute on Wednesday, April 17, in conjunction with Council. Please mark your calendars. The details are not all worked out, but the initial plans are for a brief Council meeting from noon to 1:00 p.m. followed by the focus in the afternoon, dinner at 5:00, and workshops from 6:00 to 7:30. We hope this schedule will allow travel time during reasonable hours for those of you who have longer drives. Details will follow later.

Annual Fund Raiser - watch your mail for a new wrinkle in this annual event to support the work of the League.

Elementary Curriculum

Judy Covey and the writers have been hard at work and the first draft will be ready for pilot teachers soon.



ACTION

(Carol Frisch, 7025 Comanche Ct., Edina, 55439 612/829-0604)

School Vouchers

The LWVMN Board voted on January 11 to actively oppose a school voucher proposal in the 1996 Legislature; the League believes the focus of state resources should be on continuing to improve the system that serves all children.

This decision was based on the recommendation of the LWVMN Action Committee which has followed this issue since summer. Lobbyist Janet Gendler has kept the committee informed of the pro and con

BOARD MEMO, January, 1996 (Page 4)

groups and their arguments and has updated us on LWV state and national history with public funding of private educational programs.

You may expect a state VOTER article and a separate position statement in the coming month on the voucher issue.

Wetlands

Another issue which you can expect to hear more about is a possible movement to weaken the current wetlands law. We have several active interns following the subject and will keep you informed of action opportunities.

CIA

Please continue to encourage registration for the:

Citizens in Action Workshop.
January 27, 1996
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol

Flyers are available at the LWVMN office 612/224-5445 and may be returned there.

Capitol Letter Subscriptions

A Capitol Letter subscription form is enclosed with this mailing. At \$10 per session, this newsletter is a real bargain and will help keep your League informed about the issues LWVMN is following in the Legislature.



VOTER SERVICE

(Judy Duffy, 505 Lake, Birchwood, 55110 612/429-9703)

Debates Criteria

At the January Board meeting, the LWVMN Board adopted new criteria for candidate inclusion in primary and general election debates for U.S. Senate and Congress. See the enclosed.

New Policy for Local League Procedures in Candidate Debates

If local Leagues either sponsor or co-sponsor debates or candidate forums for candidates for statewide office, you are asked to comply with this policy to insure continuity and to minimize confusion for the candidates and the public. See the enclosed. Please add the criteria and this policy to your *Guidelines* for League of Women Voter Candidates Debates booklet.

Election Video

Good news! Our videotape, *The Road to Election Day* is nearing completion. KSTP has completed the text and are at this writing in the process of putting the finishing touches on it. It will be a very useful tool for explaining the election process in Minnesota and the accompanying discussion guide will contain all you ever wanted to know about how to vote and become involved. This can be used in local League programming in a variety of programs throughout the community. The tape will be available for purchase or rental for a nominal fee beginning in February. More information to follow. My thanks to Linda Loomis of the Golden Valley LWV and to Virginia Sweeny of the Edina LWV for their tireless work on this throughout the holiday season.

Minnesota Compact

As of this writing, we are still involved in discussions with a coalition of people interested in promoting a better atmosphere for the upcoming election season. We have proposed that candidates agree to sign on to participate in a series of debates throughout the state in order to make themselves more accessible to the public they wish to represent in office. This, along with other ideas are still being formulated. The Compact has been convened by former Congressman Tim Penny with a coalition of news people, broadcasters, political science academics, civic groups and others.

E-Democracy

At the January Board meeting, the LWVMN Board voted to participate in the electronic debate among candidates for U.S. Senator from Minnesota in the fall of 1996. Jackie Farm of the White Bear/North Oaks LWV has agreed to moderate this debate as she did in 1994. Diane Gibson will also be involved with this. If there are more individuals that you are aware of who have the interest and the technical expertise to help in this project, please let us know.

PROGRAM



(Jan Nelson, 5105 Lake Ridge Rd., Edina, 55436 612/938-7703) & (Mary Dinneen, 7611 Gleason Rd., Edina, 55439 612/941-0583)

Enclosed with this mailing is a list of proposed 1995-96 programs for Minnesota local Leagues.



STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING STUDY

(Cindy Berquist, 1501 Lia Dr., Northfield, 55057 507/663-0816)

The Focus Meeting on Minnesota State Government Spending is set for Wednesday, April 17, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Humphrey Institute, Minneapolis

The League is coordinating a coalition of organizations to plan and cosponsor the public meeting. The coalition includes the Humphrey Institute Extension Service, MN Taxpayers Association, Citizens League and Association of MN Counties. Additional potential co-sponsors have been invited, but confirmation of their interest has not yet been received. The LWVMN Council meeting will be teamed up with this event. We will provide local Leagues with more details in February. Mark this event on your calendars!!

Reminder - There is a videotape of Tim Penny's and Barbara Ronningen's presentations at the Mankato Fall Workshop available for local League use. Contact LWVMN office at 612/224-5445.



TECHNOLOGY

(Kay Erickson, 6000 Wyngate Ln., Minnetonka, MN 55345, 612/934-2991)

Telecommunications Plan

The Technology Committee has been developing a telecommunications plan that will be sent to the Board later this year. A draft (and it is a draft!) of the plan is included in this mailing. We would like your ideas about how new technology can best serve local Leagues. Please call or send me your comments, concerns and suggestions.

Hot List

Enclosed in this mailing is a hot list of interesting web sites for your information.

Plugging Along is the name of a video series produced by MetroNet, Minneapolis Telecommunications Network and MN Citizens Online. The first two programs have run on channel 6 in the metro area and are available on videotape for meetings, cable TV programs, etc. Each runs about 29 minutes.

The first video includes a segment produced by young people in the Minneapolis Phillips neighborhood and an introduction to the Internet.

The second, entitled *Follow the Dollars* is a discussion of the state's investment in telecommunications for K-12 education and libraries.

Call the state office at 612/224-5445 to reserve the tapes.

Volunteerism On-line

According to the December 14, 1995 "Chronicle of Philanthropy," a survey of computer users reveals that they would give and volunteer more if they could find information about charities on-line.

"More than 75 percent of the respondents said that they would volunteer more often if they could find information on how to do so on-line. More than 40 percent said they would attend charity events if they could."

On giving, "thirty percent said they wanted the ability to find out at any time of day or night what groups needed their help; 34 percent said they wanted to learn more about a charity's work before volunteering; and 32 percent said they would like electronic mail reminders about volunteer opportunities."

Internet Conference in Iowa

LWV Iowa is sponsoring a one-day Internet conference on January 31, 1996 in West Des Moines, IA. Entitled *The Internet: Current Applications & Future Implications*, the conference will feature U.S. Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich as well as a panel discussion and six workshops. For more information call LWV Iowa at 515/227-0814 or obtain the complete conference schedule at http://lwvia.cornell-iowa.edu/conference/.

Have the hardware but not the technical know-how?

For those in the metro area, the Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (MTN) has the class for you. They offer Introduction to the Internet, Advanced Internet, Basic Introduction to Creating Web Pages. Each four-session class is \$65. Call MTN at 612/331-8575 for more information. Get information about them - and register for them - electronically.

Federal Government Information is now available free to Internet and dial-in users. In December, the Government Printing Office (GPO) announced that Internet and dial-in users can now receive the Congressional Record, Federal Register, congressional bills and a list of important government documents on the same day of publication.

The GPO home page can be found at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/

General information on accessing these data bases is available by:

e-mail: help@eids05.eids.gop.gov

phone: 202/512-1530 FAX: 202/512-1262

BOARD MEMO,	Ianuary	1996	(Page 7)
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E-Democracy

Two new projects have been announced by E-Democracy which is a non-partisan citizen-based volunteer project to increase citizen participation in elections and public discourse through on-line civic forums and collections of important information. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

Change in Legislative TV Coverage

Hearings and floor sessions of the MN Legislature will now be carried on station KTCI-TV, UHF Channel 17 beginning January 16, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. KTCI-TV has received a grant to carry these sessions.

200000			
	I, 550 Rice Street, St. P		/224-5445 or fill out this coupon -mail to:
i.	ing the Internet" packet.		
Address:			
League:	487	- V.	
would like to join the	"Surfers" list to receive	periodic mailings abo	ut technology issues.

WELCOME TO THE CAPITOL

Getting There

The capitol complex is north of I-94 just minutes from downtown St. Paul. It is accessible from the east and west on I-94 and from the north and south on I-35E.

1-94 eastbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to University Avenue, turn right. The church is two blocks down on the comer of University and Park.

1-94 westbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to University Avenue, turn right. The church is two blocks down on the corner of University and Park.

1-35E northbound: Exit at Kellogg Boulevard, turn left. Go to John Ireland Boulevard and turn right. Follow Ireland to Constitution which turns into Park. Church is at the corner of University and Park.

I-35E southbound: Exit at University Avenue. Turn right. The Church is on University and Park.

Buses: Freeway express buses are available. Call the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) at 612.827.7733 for route information.

Parking

Parking is available in the following areas:

- . The Bethesda Hospital Ramp-block and a half north of the Capitol.
- Sears-under the sign in the southwest corner of the lot. Cut out the Parking Permit on this page and place in your window.
- Lot Q, north of the Capitol at Cedar Street and Shelbourne Avenue offers metered and all-day-parking.
- Lot D, next to the State Office Building at Aurora Avenue and Rice Street offers metered parking.
- Centennial Building Ramp, orange level, at Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue offers metered and all-day parking.
- Handicapped Parking is available in the Centennial Building Ramp on all levels (the blue level is the most easily accessible).
- Additional handicapped parking is located directly behind the capitor in Lot N, west of the State Office Building (between Lots E).

DO NOT PARK following areas:

The lot behind the Church or in any lot that says you will be towed.

Tunnels:

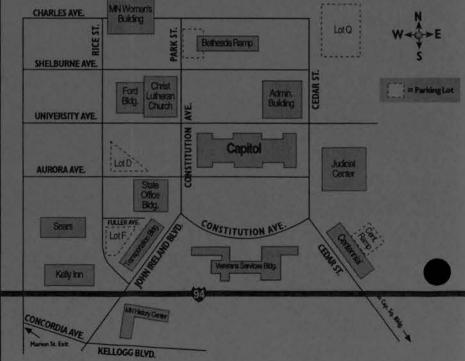
· Tunnels connect all Capitol complex buildings.

Questions?

Call the MN Women's

Consortium at
612.228-0338





550 Rice Street St. Paul, MN 5510 612.228.0338





February 25 & 26 St. Paul, Minnesota

STRONG SWOMEN BUILDHEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Women Come to the Capitol is a program of the Minnesota Women's Consortium, a coalition of 167 women's organizations committed to equality and justice for women.

EVENING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

5	5:30	Registration & hors d'oeurvres
4	6:00	Dinner
Ide	7:00	Program, "Strong Women Build Healthy Communities" • Panel of Women Mayors: Elizabeth Kautz, Mayor of Burnsville Dr. Jean Harris, Mayor of Eden Prairie Barb O'Neal, Mayor of Oak Park Heights

DAY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:00	Registration
9:00	Welcome • Welcome: Minnesota Women's Consortium • Inspiration: Secretary of State Joan Anderson Growe • Report from the Presidents: Anne Borgen, LWVMN Loretta Frederick, Legal Counsel for Battered Women's Justice Proje
9:30	Learn What You Can Do - Effective Lobbying From the Pros • Matthea Smith and Susal Stebbins
9:45	Learn The Issues - Information on Legislation • Health, Education, Violence, Economics
11:00	Now Do It! - Women Must be Seen and Heard at the Capitol - Guided tours with a purpose - Visit Legislators and see them at wor
12:00	Lunch - Lunch on your own at one of the Capitol area cafeterias
1:00	Marvelous Minnesota Women Awards- Capitol Rotunda
2:00	Attend Your Choice of Interest Groups: Precinct Caucus Training: MN NARAL Report from Beijing: Girls' International Forum What's Good for Women is Good for Business Threats to Choice: Connie Perpich, Linda Ojala, Lisa Goodman
3:00	Interest Groups Precinct Caucus Training: MN NARA!

Greater Minnesota Women's Caucus: Kathlyn Billett
 Women of Color Caucus: Matthea Smith and Joyce Hayden
 Young Women's Caucus: Young Women's Leadership Project

Location

· Earle Brown Continuing Education Center St. Paul (see map)

Cost & Reservations

- Reservations required for the dinner. call 612.228.0338.
- · Cost is \$20 per person for the dinner, due February 21, 1996.
- Checks payable to M.W.C. Capitol Evening 550 Rice Street, St. Paul. MN 55103.
- Call for arrangements if you cannot

Location

- Morning- Christ Lutheran Church, University at Park, St. Paul (see map). Park in Bethesda Hospital Ramp.
- Afternoon-Capitol Rotunda (see

Information

- · All programs on February 26 are
- Time is available around noon to visit with your state representative and senator. Call and make an appointment in advance (see numbers at right). If they are unavailable, leave a note with your name and address.
- · Childcare and interpreter services available by advanced request. Please call 612.228.0338 for more

GET INFORMED!

To help make your trip to the capitol productive, you may want to contact various offices around the capitol before the Women Come to the Capitol event.

State Representative's name, address & phone number

House Information Office 175 State Office Building 612.296.2146, or 800.657.3550

State Senator's name, address

Senate Information Office 231 State Capitol 612.296.0504

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> Women's voices can change the world, but only if they are heard.

COME TO THE CAPITOL

The Planning Committee for Women Come to the Capitol includes representatives from a wide variety of women's organizations that belong to the Consortium. The purpose of the day is to encourage women to make their voices heard. We are often hesitant to speak up for the needs of ourselves, our sisters, our daughters and grand-daughters. We hope you will be inspired by the women leaders who speak, and we are sure you will be educated by the workshops on legislative issues.

We hope you understand the importance of meeting your State Senator and Representative and sharing your priorities with her or him. Visit your Legislator, even if they always disagree with you-they were elected to represent all of their constituents, not just their supporters. Legislators are public servants-you are the public. Make an appointment, if they are not in, leave a note telling them you were there.

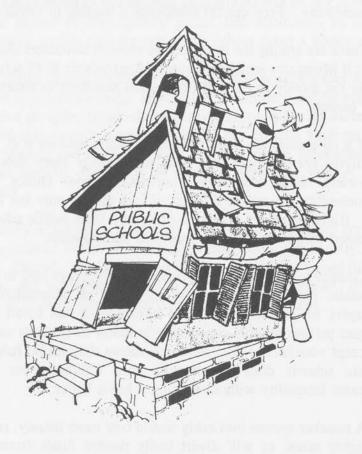
Don't give up your power to make an impact on education, pollution, healthcare, poverty, violence. You have the power to change the lives of women and children. Don't be one of the women no one hears.

Go to your precinct caucus on March 5. Vote November 6.



Setting Myths Aside:

The Consequences of School Vouchers



Prepared By

The Minnesota School Boards Association

SETTING MYTHS ASIDE: THE CONSEQUENCES OF SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Better schools. Higher achievement for poor and minority students. More choices for all students, including those with special needs. Less racial and economic segregation. More accountability. Free market competition leading to lower costs.

These are among the benefits that voucher advocates claim will result if Minnesota legislators vote to fund private K-12 schools by giving tax money in the form of tuition vouchers to students and their parents.

If it all sounds too good to be true, that's because it is. When the myths are set aside, the facts tell another story about what supporters claim would be "universal school choice." No accountability for public dollars. More choice only for a select few. Higher taxes or diversion of money from public education. Increased inequality without improved achievement.

Counter to the rhetoric of proponents, vouchers lead to the use of public money by private groups with no accountability to taxpayers for results. So-called choice does not mean access, because private schools can deny admission to students or refuse to accept vouchers at all. Research shows that public funding of private schools does not benefit poor children, but instead increases inequality without making schools better.

A voucher system inevitably would cost more money, resulting in higher taxes, or will divert badly needed funds from public school students. Vouchers that put money in the coffers of church-run schools would threaten religious liberty by forcing taxpayers to finance religious messages with which they disagree - a scheme that would embroil the state in a costly lawsuit that it almost certainly will lose.

Many voucher proponents rely on a free market model when articulating their vision for educating Minnesota's children. The theory is that public and private schools will compete for "consumer" dollars just like car makers do, leading to a better "product."

Yet, competition between public and private schools would take place on a playing field that is far from level. Unlike public schools, private schools are virtually unregulated. In addition, market forces result in tremendous inequalities and do not provide universal access to high-quality goods and services. In other words, some people ride the bus while others drive a luxury car.

The reality is that education is not just another consumer item. The state is constitutionally required to maintain a <u>public</u> school system that provides equal educational opportunity for <u>all</u> students. Public schools provide a public good. They educate students not only in reading and math, but also in the common foundation of American society, the belief in equality, freedom, justice, and democracy.

Contrary to the wishful thinking of advocates, vouchers are not a simple answer to the complex questions facing our society and schools. Instead, vouchers are an empty promise that would divert attention and resources from the real challenges ahead, doing nothing to improve our common schools in the process.

1. PUBLIC SPENDING WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY

Vouchers would provide public money to private groups and churches to operate schools that are not accountable to the public. Taxpayers would have to take it on faith that private schools were spending their money appropriately, with no way to voice opposition to a program or participate in the decision-making process.

In contrast, decisions on how tax money is spent on public school students are made by locally elected school board members at meetings open to the public. Residents have access to information about school district programs and can make their views known. Those who are displeased with their board's decisions can campaign and vote for new members at the next election, or run for the board themselves.

Public schools also have minimum curriculum requirements, and soon will be held accountable by the statewide graduation standards. The state standards are scheduled to be phased in beginning next school year with basic skills tests in reading and math. Students must meet the requirements -- which when fully implemented will include both basic competency tests in core subjects and mastery of complex intellectual skills -- in order to graduate from high school.

Private schools have no restrictions on their curriculum and no minimum academic standards. Even accredited private schools do not have to meet any particular standards. Most accrediting agencies simply require their schools to have a written mission and curriculum, which the schools themselves determine.

All private schools do not necessarily share the public school system's goal of preparing students to live and work in our increasingly complex and diverse society. Some teach academic subjects from a religious or political viewpoint that includes messages contrary to the basic tenets of American democracy, such as religious separatism and intolerance for other religions or groups.

Certain Christian fundamentalist textbooks express disdain for science, government, intellectualism, and religious traditions other than conservative Protestantism. They teach science, history, and literature from that perspective.

Certainly our constitutional right to religious freedom means that government policy cannot and should not censor these views or restrict what churches teach in their schools. However, vouchers as a government policy would force taxpayers to subsidize extreme views—as well as more mainstream religious views they simply do not hold—in the name of improving education.

Many if not most private schools want to continue answering only to their constituents and contributors. If any strings are attached to vouchers, some private schools simply will not participate in the program at all -- making the choice claimed by voucher advocates less than universal from the start.

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), which represents private, non-profit schools run by independent boards, advises its members against participating in voucher programs that set academic standards, restrict the schools' ability to set admission requirements, or otherwise reduce their independence.

In Milwaukee, where a pilot voucher program involving nonreligious schools has been under way for five years, only 12 of the city's 23 eligible private schools participated last year. Private schools that accept vouchers in Milwaukee cannot discriminate based on race, religion, gender, prior achievement, or prior behavioral records, although they are not required to educate disabled students. Among those that have not accepted voucher students are NAIS members.

Although private Milwaukee schools that accept vouchers are required to maintain financial records, there have been problems. One school abruptly shut down the first year, stranding 63 students. Some parents have raised concerns about fees and fund-raising requirements imposed on them.

The Wisconsin statute provides for voucher students to attend private schools at no charge beyond the value of the voucher (approximately \$3209 in 1994-1995). However, a 1995 study by the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau found that some schools violated this prohibition. Of the 12 schools participating, five request parents to pay some type of fee. Two require parents to pay the difference between tuition and the voucher, or participate in fund-raising activities to make up the difference.

2. THE MYTH OF PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE

Advocates promote vouchers as a way to give families what they call "universal school choice," suggesting that <u>any</u> child could go to <u>any</u> school under their plan. It sounds good, but the truth is that when it comes to private schools, it is the school that does the choosing.

Unlike public schools, private schools are not required to admit every child who comes to their door. They can and do deny admission to children based on their religion, intelligence, test scores, disciplinary record, past academic achievement, and special needs, including disabilities.

In Minnesota, more than 85 percent of the 543 private schools are religiously affiliated. Admission criteria are completely unregulated. No law requires private schools to report their admission policies, and the state Department of Children, Families, and Learning has no information on them.

Although Governor Arne Carlson's voucher proposal would prevent private schools that accept vouchers from discriminating based on race, religion, or economic status, they would be allowed to retain admission standards based on academic achievement.

The choices created by vouchers also would be reduced by the fact that some private schools, religious and otherwise, have long waiting lists, meaning that they do not have enough space even for those students who have been accepted.

With vouchers, private schools could continue to pick and choose among students, weeding out those whose special needs would require additional resources, those who might cause discipline problems, or those who would need substantial remediation.

Private schools programs reflect their admission policies. Unlike public schools, most private schools are not equipped to teach all students. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 1993-1994, only 25 percent of private schools offered programs for disabled students, compared to 90 percent of public schools. Eleven percent of private schools offered programs for those who speak English as a second language, compared to 43 percent of public schools.

Voucher critics warn that private schools would accept only students likely to do well in any setting, leaving the public schools with a higher concentration of students who are more costly or difficult to educate. Vouchers would provide no incentive to do otherwise.

Voucher supporters claim that the Milwaukee experiment proves that vouchers do not "skim" the best students from the public schools. Studies do show that the Milwaukee students who have used vouchers to leave the public schools are not among the system's best. However, the information is of little relevance when discussing Governor Carlson's proposal because of differences between it and the Milwaukee law.

In Wisconsin, the voucher law prevents private schools from applying their own academic admission standards, so the schools cannot choose on that basis. Governor Carlson wants Minnesota's private schools to retain their admission standards under a voucher system, so they could continue to deny admission to low-achieving students.

Many proponents argue that vouchers make sense because they would give the same choices to low-income families that already are available to the more affluent. Yet, private schools would remain financially out of reach for many people if students were required to pay fees or extra tuition in addition to the voucher. In that case, a voucher program would merely subsidize private education for the wealthy and uppermiddle class.

With vouchers, universal school choice in reality would be available only to a select few, at most. Even they would not really have universal choice, because some schools almost certainly would refuse to participate at all, as has happened in Milwaukee. Many students would have no additional choices.

3. EVIDENCE THAT VOUCHERS DO NOT WORK

One of the chief claims made by voucher supporters is that using tax money to subsidize private school education will improve student achievement for those who move to private schools and make the public schools better at the same time. This claim is not supported by the evidence.

Although voucher programs are rare in the United States and elsewhere, the available results show no factual basis for the claim that vouchers improve academic achievement. In addition, choice programs that involve private schools tend to benefit primarily wealthier students and increase racial and economic segregation.

In Milwaukee, where low-income students have had access to nonsectarian private schools using vouchers for the past five years, parents of vouchers students are happier with their new schools, but there has been no evidence of academic gains. A University of Wisconsin political science professor who analyzed the program for the state concluded that there is no difference between the academic performance of voucher students and public school students.

Although critics have attacked Prof. John F. Witte's methodology, Wisconsin's Legislative Audit Bureau concluded this year that it was not inappropriate. The Audit Bureau study also stated that it was too soon to draw conclusions about the Milwaukee data.

Witte's four-year tracking study showed that reading scores for Milwaukee's voucher students initially were better than those of their low-income peers in the public schools, fell below public school scores in the second year, and were essentially even in the third and fourth years. In math, voucher students outperformed their public school peers in the third year only, and their scores fell the following year.

Ironically, despite increased parental satisfaction, families have left voucher schools at a high rate, nearly one-third per year. Three of the 12 participating schools were almost completely segregated, with minority enrollments of nearly 100 percent. Although vouchers last year were available for up to 1,452 students, only 830 students actually used them.

In Chile, where a voucher system based on free market principles similar to those promoted in Minnesota has been in effect for 15 years, students are still waiting for the improved education system that was promised in 1980. A recent Stanford University analysis found that the promised benefits never ccurred, despite the fact that Chile's voucher schools are completely unregulated and compete directly with public schools.

In fact, test scores on nationally standardized Spanish and math tests actually <u>fell</u> for lower income public and private school students during the first decade of competition, although scores have since returned to earlier levels. Scores for middle-income students remained about the same in both systems. Poor students actually fared better in the public schools than in private schools.

The Stanford analysis also found that Chile's voucher system made economic segregation worse and was used primarily by middle- and upper-income families. By 1990, 72 percent of lower-income students remained in the public schools, while only 25 percent of the most affluent attended public schools. Of those in the middle-income bracket, 43 percent attended subsidized private schools by 1990.

A separate analysis of European school choice plans that subsidize private schools found the same trends. A 1994 report in the <u>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management</u> concluded that "the primary negative effect of school choice is its natural endency to increase the educational gap between the privileged and the underprivileged."

4. THE MYTH OF THE EDUCATION MARKET

Many advocates insist that vouchers will save money by promoting competition between the public and private sectors, creating efficiency while improving schools. Their analysis ignores the fact that a free market creates tremendous inequalities and is driven by profit, not the goal of promoting universal access to high-quality products.

Instead of saving money while improving learning for everyone, vouchers would either divert badly needed funds away from public school students or lead to large increases in education spending and higher taxes. Vouchers inevitably would mean higher transportation costs because school districts would have to transport more students outside current attendance areas.

Although voucher proposals made so far call for limited pilot projects to start, the ultimate goal of Governor Arne Carlson and other supporters is to expand the program to all children statewide. Paying for students who would have attended private school anyway does nothing to advance the stated goals of voucher proponents and would simply mean public subsidies for the affluent.

To pay for a tuition voucher worth \$3205 -- the current formula allowance -- for all 83,435 students already enrolled in private schools in Minnesota would cost an additional \$267 million per year. The money would have to come from somewhere. In a time of massive federal budget cuts putting pressure on an already tight state budget, the choices would be few -- higher taxes or deep cuts in existing programs.

Not only does a free market model have limited relevance when it comes to providing equal educational opportunity for all students, the competitive playing field created by vouchers would be inherently unequal from the start. Vouchers would create a dual school system, as happened in Chile. Private schools, virtually unregulated and under no constitutional requirement to educate all students, could simply continue to use their admission policies to skim students who are most likely to succeed for the least investment. As a result, their test scores would be good. Their per-pupil costs would be low.

Even without selective admissions, private schools operate at an advantage in terms of cost. Unlike private schools, public schools are subject to costly mandates such as the requirement for licensed teachers, special education, due process in student discipline, and transportation. These translate into mandatory costs that public schools, by law, cannot avoid.

With vouchers, the public schools would be left with an even higher proportion of students who are more costly to educate because they need additional resources in order to achieve. The disabled students, poor students, students who need remedial programs, students who speak English as a second language, and students with disciplinary problems who were turned away by the private schools would remain in the public system.

In addition to the experience of Chile -- where a free market approach to education has failed to yield the promised improvements after 15 years -- the 1994 analysis of school choice in Europe also suggests that a market model would not improve education. Part of the reason is that poorer and less-educated families are less likely to take advantage of choice programs.

The author, Rice University political science Prof. John S. Ambler, concluded that the European experience shows that an educational market would not eliminate bad schools. Instead, children from lower-income families would be left behind in weak schools from which more highly motivated students had fled.

Ambler warned in the <u>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management</u> nat "educational choice risks contributing to the growth of an hereditary underclass to which many children would be condemned because of the ineptitude of their parents in playing the educational market."

5. VOUCHERS VIOLATE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Vouchers for use at church schools would threaten religious liberty by forcing taxpayers to subsidize religious teachings with which they disagree. A government policy of mandatory support for religion would raise serious constitutional issues, guaranteeing a lengthy and expensive lawsuit that the state almost certainly would lose.

Directly funding religious education with tax dollars would violate the federal constitutional separation of church and state. Further, Minnesota's own Constitution is more restrictive, specifically prohibiting the use of public money for the support of church schools. A voucher program could be challenged under both provisions.

Voucher advocates have advanced several dubious claims about the legality of vouchers. First, they argue that vouchers do not represent a direct subsidy of religion because they would go to parents, who then would make the choice to support religious schools. However, courts have always looked behind the mechanics of a program to determine where public money ends up. With vouchers, the answer would be in the coffers of church-run schools, which is prohibited.

In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 ruled that partial tuition reimbursements for families who chose to send their children to religious schools violated the separation of church and state.

Second, voucher proponents mistakenly argue that vouchers are legal because courts have approved financial assistance for post-secondary students to attend public and private colleges, including those with a religious affiliation. However, courts have decided higher education and K-12 cases differently, in part because K-12 students are legally required to attend school, while higher education is an individual choice. In addition, courts view K-12 students as more impressionable than older students and thus more likely to view state aid as government endorsement of a particular religion.

Finally, proponents claim that vouchers meet the constitutional test because the U.S. Supreme Court has approved limited public benefits for sectarian school students and their families, such as tax deductions, transportation, and sign language interpreters. Court-approved programs involve indirect health and safety or auxiliary services that also are available to public school students and do not pay for the actual religious educational process. Courts have drawn a clear line in these cases: the church school itself must get no cash subsidies that can be used for religious purposes and no more than an incidental or remote benefit from the government program. Vouchers are far over that line.

Because the vast majority of private schools are religiously affiliated, vouchers inevitably would mean tax support for religion. In Minnesota, about 86 percent of private schools are religious. These schools enroll over 90 percent of private school students.

Catholic schools account for 39 percent of private schools in Minnesota and enroll about 61 percent of private school students. Lutheran schools make up 24 percent of private schools, enrolling 15 percent of the private school student population. The next largest single group, Baptist schools, account for four to five percent of the number of schools and enrollment.

Any voucher plan that includes church-run schools inevitably will wind up in court. The American Civil Liberties Union, on behalf of 14 parents and religious leaders, sued after the Wisconsin Legislature voted earlier this year to expand Milwaukee's voucher program to include religious schools. In August, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued a preliminary injunction blocking the state from providing any money for the expanded program while the court considers the case, which is expected to be decided by early next summer.

Voucher proponents in Wisconsin also suffered a legal blow earlier this year - before the legislature expanded the Milwaukee pilot to include religious schools - when a federal trial court ruled that the state did not infringe on the religious freedom of parents when it provided vouchers for private nonsectarian schools without doing the same for church schools.

A lawsuit also is expected to be filed in Ohio, the only other state that has approved vouchers. There, a pilot program in Cleveland is scheduled to begin next fall.

In Minnesota, the state Supreme Court seldom has interpreted the state's constitutional ban on public money for religious schools. In 1970, the court upheld a state statute providing transportation services to students attending religious schools, viewing it as a means of promoting the general safety and welfare of students required to attend school under compulsory attendance laws. In that case, the court noted that the state Constitution was "substantially more restrictive" than the federal Constitution in regard to public funds for church schools. The court warned that the transportation statute at issue was at "the verge of unconstitutionality."

A lower state court, the Minnesota Court of Appeals, held in 1993 that religiously affiliated colleges could participate in the post-secondary enrollment options (PSEO) program, which allows public school students generally past the age of compulsory attendance to take college courses.

Unlike with vouchers, only non-religious courses may be taken in the PSEO program. The court noted that the schools separated the public funds, which covered less than half of the actual cost of providing a course, to assure that no tax noney was used for religious purposes. The case never reached the Minnesota Supreme Court.

6. PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE COMMON GOOD

Public education is one of America's great resources. Our unique education system accepts all children -- regardless of race, religion, intelligence, economic background, disability, family background, or other difference -- and strives to help each one achieve his or her potential.

Historically, the public schools have accommodated large immigrant populations, helping millions become productive and successful members of society and fulfilling the American promise of opportunity for all. The public schools provide a common experience. They teach not only academic subjects, but also help to maintain social integration by transmitting the foundational values of American society -- democracy, tolerance, equality, freedom, and justice.

Few would dispute that private schools have a place. The issue raised by vouchers is not whether private schools should exist, or whether they are good or bad, but whether tax dollars should pay for some children to attend schools that, by design, are exclusive and never were intended to serve everyone.

Public funding of private schools sends the wrong message -- a message of exclusion and separatism. It sends the message that we are not all in this together. Vouchers would encourage a kind of tribalism, allowing groups of people to turn away from the common schools and broader community involvement to concern themselves only with "their" schools. Vouchers would help build walls at a time when the increasing diversity of American society requires renewed efforts at cooperation and understanding.

Certainly our schools, like society in general, face challenges. Although minority test scores have improved in the past 20 years, a gap between majority and minority achievement remains. Today, as more parents work outside the home, schools have been asked to bear a larger social burden. Violence among young people has increased. Society has become increasingly complex and technology-based, requiring changes at home, work, and in schools.

However, critics of public education, many of them from the political far right, have greatly overstated the problems that do exist. To hear them talk, America's education system is broken and cannot be fixed. In their view, it must be destroyed in order to "save" it.

In truth, Minnesota continues to rank at or near the top by most measures of educational quality. Nationwide, standardized test scores have <u>not</u> declined over the last 20 years. Minority achievement has improved, although an achievement gap remains. Dropout rates have declined. The number of high school students taking math and science has risen dramatically since 1982. Americans are more likely to complete high school and higher education than people in other Western countries and Japan.

Poll after poll shows that Americans support public education. When given the opportunity to cast a ballot on vouchers, voters in other states - most recently California in 1993 -- uniformly have said "no." In recent elections, Minnesota voters demonstrated their support for public education by approving the vast majority of school referendums on the allot.

More parents can and should be actively involved in their children's education. Because the public schools are a common resource, every member of the community has an obligation to ensure their success. Instead of diverting money to private schools and an elite group of students, we should focus the state's resources on continuing to improve the system that serves all children.

Minnesota already is a leader in public school choice, with open enrollment, charter schools, and post-secondary enrollment options. Unlike private schools choice, choice in public programs makes a variety of options available to all families and students within the system of common schools accountable through the democratic process.

Vouchers to fund private schools at public expense are not just a harmless reform experiment. They are a false and divisive promise that would provide more choice only for a select few, increase inequality without improving learning, and divert resources and attention from the real challenges ahead.



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HOT LIST Interesting Web Sites

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

http://www.freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn/

League of Women Voters of the United States

http://www.lwv.org/~lwvus/

Access Minnesota Project: a project that will provide 60 Minnesota communities with improved access to the Internet through the use of public information terminals. http://www.mes.umn.edu/accessmn/

Election 96: a jumping point to Internet resources related to the upcoming 1996 Presidential Election. this page is nonpartisan; however, many of the links on this page may lead to partisan pages.

http://dodo.crown.net/~mpg/election/96.html

FedWorld Information Network: a one-stop source of U.S. Government documents and information of all kinds.

http://www.fedworld.gov/

Electronic Newsstand: an Internet source for the widest selection of articles from the world's leading magazines, newsletters, newspapers, catalogues and more! Presents a comprehensive source of political and government information. Here you'll find the largest collection of publications devoted to covering politics, public policy, the media and the forthcoming 1996 U.S. Presidential election. Also included are links to government agencies, international organizations, states and political parties.

http://www.enews.com

Government & Politics

http://freenet.msp.mn.us/govt/

Minnesota E-Democracy

http://freenet.msp.mn.us/govt/e-democracy/

Yahoo

http://www.yahoo.com/

Internet Tour

http://www.globalcenter.net/gcweb/tour.html

The Lighthouse Weather Server

http://the-tech.mit.edu/Weather/

E-Democracy

Join the discussions on '96 campaign

Way back in 1994, when hardly anyone without a pocket protector had heard of the Internet, let alone the

World Wide Web, cybervolunteers led by a young man from the Humphrey Institute named Steven Clift treated at work, school or over such commercial services as America Online or Star Tribune Online.

In addition to the senatorial debate, the E-Democracy project is working on a new discussion area named the Min-



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Minnesota E-Democracy

http://freenet.msp.mn.us/govt/e-democracy

"This is the best example of using the Internet to support active citizen participation in the election process."
- Editor of the Center for Civic Networking's WWW.

Minnesota E-Democracy proudly announces a number of new and exciting initiatives. Minnesota E-Democracy is a non-partisan citizen-based volunteer project, whose mission is to improve Minnesota's democracy through the use of information networks. It seeks to increase citizen participation in elections and public discourse through online civic forums and collections of important information.

Detailed information on Minnesota E-Democracy and the Minnesota Issues Forum are available on the World-Wide-Web at: http://freenet.msp.mn.us/govt/e-democracy Visit this page for our full 1996 announcement and U.S. Senate E-Debate information. Please create a bookmark or WWW link today.

Sign-up for Project Updates via E-mail - MN-DEMOCRACY!

The new MN-DEMOCRACY e-mail list provides announcements and project updates from Minnesota E-Democracy. MN-DEMOCRACY is a one-way e-mail list that will have no more than four (4) postings a month.

To receive periodic updates from Minnesota E-Democracy, send an e-mail message to:

Majordomo@freenet.msp.mn.us

In the text portion, write:

subscribe mn-democracy

Minnesota Politics Forum - MN-POLITICS

The MN-POLITICS, the primary interactive e-mail forum sponsored by Minnesota E-Democracy, has close to 300 subscribers. Interesting discussions from diverse perspectives on Minnesota politics and issues make it one of the most active and useful on-line discussion forums in the state. All of the previous postings to MN-POLITICS are available on the Twin Cities Free-Net at: http://freenet.msp.mn.us/govt/e-democracy/

To subscribe to MN-POLITICS, send an e-mail message to:

Majordomo@MR.Net

In the text, area write:

subscribe mn-politics

Note: MN-POLITICS is an open and unmoderated forum with an average daily message volume of 2-7 messages. Most list subscribers are selective in what they read - and for those of you who are new to e-mail forums - it is O.K. to use the delete key. Please read the full list description that you receive upon subscribing.

Minnesota E-Democracy Steering Committee - E-Democracy@freenet.msp.mn.us

LWVMN Telecommunications Plan - <u>DRAFT</u> 01/16/96

The LWVMN will employ advanced telecommunications technologies to promote our mission to encourage citizen involvement in the political process and influence public policy though education and advocacy.

Objectives:

- I. Empower citizens by providing information on and opportunities for interactive discussions on voting, candidates, government and public policy issues.
 - A. Establish a LWVMN home page with information on voting requirements and procedures, legislative information, government information resources, and public policy issues.
 - B. Edit the government pages for Twin Cities Freenet.
 - C. Sponsor and moderate on-line candidates meetings.
 - D. Sponsor and moderate on-line policy discussions and establish issues news groups.
 - E. Put selected League public policy information on line.
 - F Provide on-line information about how to access government.
 - G. Provide public education about the opportunities and policy issues concerning telecommunications.
 - 1) Network with other groups interested in ensuring citizen involvement in the decisions surrounding telecommunications.
 - Use VOTER articles and the home page to inform members and the public about other information sources, including Twin Cities Freenet and e-democracy projects.
 - H. Increase our use of videos in providing training and information to the public.
- II. Involve citizens in a community decision making process regarding technology.
 - A. Develop and oversee a community outreach project to involve citizens in making decisions about technology in their communities by building on the work of Access MN to put public access terminals in 60 sites across the state.
 - B. Work with local Leagues to involve citizens in this project and other projects that seek to bring citizens into the decision-making process.
- III. Foster membership growth, member involvement and leadership training.
 - A. On the LWVMN home page, provide information on how to join, list the local Leagues and communities they serve, the history of the League, League events, dates, etc.
 - B. Use our improved computer capability to increase our understanding of our membership and track trends in recruitment and retention.
 - C. Provide more accurate, up-to-date membership information to local Leagues.
 - D. Use our new computer capability to improve the look of the printed material we send to members and local Leagues.

- IV. Strengthen our advocacy efforts.
 - A. Educate members and the public on how to use the Internet to lobby more effectively (CIA Conference, intern training).
 - C. Use the Internet to keep up to date on legislative activity and issues.
- V. Improve our communication with local Leagues and members.
 - A. Develop "mailing lists" to communicate with local Leagues and facilitate their communication with each other.
 - 1) Provide "how to" information such as debate and membership guidelines, sample letters, etc.
 - 2) Set up "mailing lists" for specific local League portfolios.
 - B. Communicate with members specifically interested in technology issues ("surfers").
 - C. Provide information to local Leagues on disc and through e-mail (consensus questions, information for local League newsletters).
 - D. Provide information and training at regional meetings and conventions on technology issues and how to use the Internet.
 - E. Increase use of videoconferencing and interactive television.
 - F. Develop a list of universal resource locators (addresses) and search places.
 - G. Provide the LWVMN VOTER on the home page.
- VI. Enhance the development efforts of state and local Leagues.
 - A. Purchase development software to improve our data base of donors, track giving trends, etc.
 - B. On the LWVMN home page, provide information on LWVMN support and how to contribute.
- VII. Improve our internal administration and communications systems.
 - A. Select a provider for Internet access and e-mail addresses for staff and selected Board members.
 - B. Implement the computer technology plan as funding becomes available.
- VIII. Establish a committee to keep the Board and local Leagues aware of opportunities in the area of technology.
 - A. Develop a telecommunications plan for the LWVMN.
 - B. Develop and maintain a LWVMN home page.
 - C. Make policy recommendations concerning technology to the Board.
 - D. Provide information and training to members and local Leagues.
 - E. Develop policies and procedures concerning the proper legal and ethical use of technology including personal privacy issues.

DEBATES



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417

Approved by LWVMN Board 1/11/96

POLICY

RE LWVMN MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL LEAGUE CANDIDATE FORUMS
ON STATEWIDE OFFICES

Purpose: Since it is in the interest of the LWV at all levels to produce candidate forums which are uniformly organized, balanced and of service to the voters, the LWVMN has developed the following policy. Statewide races are usually considered to be the responsibility of the state League in planning candidate events. Local Leagues are strongly urged to follow this policy prior to undertaking the event.

If a local League is approached by a statewide campaign or the local media with a request for a statewide candidate forum, the president or voter service chair should contact the LWVMN office in order to:

- → insure that all candidate criteria are uniform with recognized state practices;
- → insure that the candidates are informed of the criteria and understand how they are determined:
- → insure that the participants are aware that we are also guided by LWVUS, the IRS and the FEC with certain rules and regulations;
- → insure that we wish only to produce quality and informative candidate forums for the benefit of voters.

The LWVMN requests that Leagues follow this policy only to eliminate any problems that sometimes arise in these types of forums. The LWVMN intent is to serve as a clearinghouse for information and if requested, be a resource to local Leagues.

DEBATES



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417

CANDIDATE SELECTION CRITERIA IN THE 1996 PREPRIMARY DEBATES FOR US SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA

The following criteria will be considered in determining the eligibility of a candidate to participate in LWVMNEF sponsored state partisan primary election debates:

A candidate must:

1. have the endorsement of a major political party. (Major political parties in Minnesota are defined in Minnesota Statute 200.02, subdivision 7.)

OR

meet the legal qualifications to hold office so that his/her name will be printed on the ballot,

and

demonstrate substantial voter interest and support

 a. through a legally registered campaign committee that has filed appropriate financial reports showing a significant funding base and a campaign organization conducting an active, statewide effort to promote his/her nomination,

OR

b. by receiving the support of at least 5% of those polled in an independent, statewide, nonpartisan, professional poll. Such a poll must be taken after the filing deadline with results available within two weeks after the polling. It should ask a question similar to, "If the primary election were held today, would you vote for a, b, c, or d?"

LWVMNEF will INVITE candidates to participate in the debates in a good faith effort to meet the following goals:

- 1. to interest voters in the primary election,
- 2. to encourage them to participate and,
- 3. to provide them with an opportunity to learn about the issues by hearing significant major party candidates discuss those issues face-to-face in a nonpartisan setting.

DEBATES



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

550 Rice Street Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 612-224-5445 Fax 612-292-9417

CANDIDATE SELECTION CRITERIA IN THE 1996 DEBATES FOR US SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund intends to sponsor nonpartisan candidate debates for the office of United States Senator in the fall of 1996. Our partners in this project, WCCO Television & WCCO Radio AM, make it possible to provide statewide coverage of the debates.

These debates are designed to meet three goals:

- 1) to educate the public about the issues in the campaigns,
- 2) to provide an opportunity for voters to hear candidates discuss those issues face to face,
- 3) to stimulate public interest and participation in the election.

We believe that these purposes are best served by including those candidates with significant statewide voter support and interest. After careful consideration, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund has adopted criteria it believes are nonpartisan, capable of objective application and understandable to candidates and the public.

To be invited to participate in the 1996 debates for US Senate, a candidate must:

1. win the nomination of his/her party in the primary election. (Primaries include major political parties as defined in Minnesota Statute 200.02, subdivision 7.)

OR

2. receive support of at least 5 percent of those polled in an independent, credible, statewide professional poll. Such a poll must be taken after the primary election and its results must be available within two weeks. The poll cannot be one commissioned by a party or a candidate. It should ask questions similar to: "If the election were held today, would you vote for a, b, c, d, etc.?"

OR

receive a percentage of support in the poll as above that equals that received by a major party candidate.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA 550 RICE STREET, ST. PAUL, MN 55103 612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417 E-MAIL lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 17, 1996

TO: ALL LOCAL LEAGUE VOTER SERVICE CHAIRS

FROM: Judy Duffy, Vice President, Voter Service

RE: NEW VIDEO ON THE ELECTION PROCESS

Our brand new video, "the Road to Election Day," is ready and waiting for you to use in your community. It was produced for us by KSTP Channel 5, and features their primary news anchors Chris Conangla and Kalley King.

The tape will provide you with an attractive and professional presentation of basic election information, and we urge you to create an event to bring it to your community.

The 15-minute tape explains the events throughout the election year from the party caucuses in March, to the summer conventions, the primary election in September and the general election in November. It answers very basic questions about what a major or minor party is, what a caucus is and who can attend, and how a candidate is endorsed by a party convention. It tells the viewer who runs in a primary and what the election is for, and who can vote in the primary elections.

The video illustrates how small a percentage of Minnesotans actually participate in the early stages of the election year, and gives viewers the information they need to register to vote and be involved in the process. The program is meant for general audiences and is accompanied by a more detailed written piece which will help you answer further questions your viewers may have.

It will make a great election-year program for your community education center, an attractive special event for your League to sponsor for members and non-members, and/or an interesting centerpiece for a presentation to a high school or college class.

We are writing to all the cable television stations in the state, offering the video to them. You may want to follow up with your local station.

Contact the state League office to reserve your copy -- details on the enclosed order form.

The Road to Election Day

14 minute video with study guide available from:



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

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□Visa □Mastercard #				exp. date



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA 550 RICE STREET, ST. PAUL, MN 55103 612/224-5445 FAX 612/292-9417 E-MAIL lwvmn@freenet.msp.mn.us http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local League Presidents
From: LWVMN Program Chairs, Jan Nelson and Mary Dinneen
January 1996

Enclosed is a list of the proposed 1995-96 programs for Minnesota local Leagues. This list is to be used for networking with Leagues who are doing similar studies. It has been a pleasure speaking with many of you and finding out how active, involved and innovative many Leagues in Minnesota are at this time. Please call Jan Nelson (938-7703) or Mary Dinneeen (941-0583), Program Chairs for the LWVMN if you have questions about program planning or need help with a program.

LOCAL LEAGUE PROGRAMS AND ADVOCACY FOR 1996

Alexandria

Publish a Douglas County booklet of elected officials to be distributed to citizens.

Anoka Blaine Coon Rapids Area

Domestic Violence

Arden Hills Shoreview

Monitor Arden Hills and Shoreview's Comprehensive Plans, and future growth of the two cities in the areas of housing, land use, and transportation.

Evaluation of water management.

Austin

City Government/Committee Structure expanded to consider County and Township issues.

Bemidji Area

Sponsors candidate forums.

Bloomington

Violence in Bloomington School age population including gangs, weapons, prevention techniques and punishments.

Brooklyn Center

Monitor city council agenda and minutes. Provide list of councilmembers and addresses for members to address issues with these elected officials.

Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove

- 1. The Effects of Domestic Violence on Children.
- 2. Local Housing Policies, Programs and Problems.

Cannon Falls

Local program "Sustainable Community Development in the Cannon Falls's Area"

Cass Lake/Walker

Building the community. Encouraging community leaders and groups to work together to solve community problems.

CMAL

Restudy of fiscal disparities (1995-1997)

Crystal/New Hope/Plymouth

Encouraged establishment of Human Rights Commission in New Hope and Plymouth. Crystal has had Human Rights Commission.

Duluth

Hosted and trained two interns from the Ukraine and Russia for three weeks this fall. New youth advocacy group with high school students interested in political activism. Sponsored a debate with school board and mayoral candidates.

Natural Resources: Working with youth groups to stencil warnings on sewers concerning what is not appropriate to deposit in sewers.

Working to establish interest in the League at UMD. Have several interested persons. Preparing for 75th anniversary of Duluth LWV.

Eastern Carver County

"Community". As our population increases how do we keep a sense of "community"? What is community?

Edina

- 1. Second year of study on "Violence and how it affects elementary age children".
- 2. Program on population.
- 3. Program on local government and how action gets taken.

Freeborn County

Areas of action and emphasis:

- 1. Environment
- 2. Women on appointed county boards, commissions and councils.
- 3. Home-health care and pre-school screening in county.
- 4. Quality education and continuation of area Technical college.

Fridley

Housing Redevelopment. Held program with executive director of the Housing Redevelopment Authority as keynote speaker.

LWV Golden Valley

Action on "Creating a Community for Children" study.

Grand Rapids Area

- 1. Recycling of certain types of plastics.
- 2. Roads. Increased traffic on Hwy 2 and 169 through town.
- 3. Education funding-local and state. How to deal with budget cuts.

Jackson County

Local government and how state government cuts and spending affects the local. (Housing, Schools, Hospital/Clinic).

Mahtomedi Area

Educational programs on Violence, Internet and a video on elections.

Minneapolis

Programs for youth

Moorhead

- 1. Form action plan for local position on local application of MN Uniform Election law on MN County Options law.
- 2. Support Clay County Transportation service for seniors and persons with low income and disabilities in order to take appropriate action.
- 3. Complete 93-94 study item to construct a self evaluation and develop and initiate a plan of action.

New Brighton

Reactivating observer corps.
Restorative Juvenile Justice
Violence

Northern Dakota County

Community Colleges update.

Judicial system/crime with emphasis on prevention of juvenile crime.

Northfield

Areas of emphasis:

- 1. Children at risk.
- 2. Low income housing.
- 3. Feed lot issues

Owatonna

Housing needs in Owatonna.

Affirmative action.

Red Wing

Children at risk

Economic status of women

Citizen Initiative for Direct Democracy

Environment

Richfield

Forums and panels held on topics of local interest to community;

- 1. Violence on TV
- 2. Housing
- 3. Local action on self esteem in adolescent girls.

Monthly programs are televised on local cable access.

Robbinsdale

Study ongoing revitallization of West Broadway Development to include local business ordinances.

Rochester

High speed rail for S.E. Minnesota.

Rock County State Unit

Violence

ROMAFH

- 1. Update of Juvenile Justice position of Ramsey County LWV's.
- 2. Concentrating on Observer and Action programs.

St. Cloud Area

Civil rights issues in the St. Cloud area.

St. Croix Valley

Working at building bridges with other organizations in town and in the future with neighboring Leagues.

Setting up a Speakers Bureau to meet the needs of the school district.

Establishing a fund raising committee.

St. Louis Park

Study on "The Feasibility of One Stop Shopping for Family Services" Study and consensus 1995. Booklet on this topic to be distributed soon and action to be taken. Approximately 48 agencies.

St. Paul

District Councils: To continue the 1994 study on the effectiveness of the St. Paul District Councils.

South Tonka

Advocacy on land use and redevelopment.

Wayzata/Plymouth

Programs on:

- 1. Hennepin County Workhouse
- 2. Referendum in Plymouth on Ice Center, Sr. Center and Pool.

White Bear Lake/North Oaks

Develop a position on educational spending priorities

Willmar

Juvenile violence Housing-Elm Lane

Winona State Unit

Land use issues-protecting the bluff lands.

Woodbury

"Growth of our Community". First year of two year study.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOKLYN PARK, OSSEO, AND MAPLE GROVE



550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

To:

Local League Presidents

From:

Sandy Cooper, Nominating Committee Chair

Date:

January 1996

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1996 HOPE WASHBURN AWARD

Members of your League are invited to submit nominations for the 1996 Hope Washburn Award for outstanding service to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. This award will be presented at the LWVMN Council in Minneapolis at the Humphrey Center on April 17, 1996.

The award was established in 1956 to honor the service Hope Washburn gave to both her local League, St. Paul, as well as all Minnesota Leagues. It is presented each year at Convention or Council to a Leaguer who has performed outstanding service to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. In other words, the nominee could be someone who has been active on the local level as well as the state and/or national levels.

Any member may nominate another member (except those serving on the current LWVMN Nominating Committee). The nominee does not need to be a member of the nominator's League. A member who has been nominated in previous years, can be renominated by resubmitting the name with just an update of their League activities. You may write or phone me at 612/443-2743 if you have any questions about the material on file from a previous nomination. In 1974, it became a policy to keep the nominating material for four years or return it to a person making a request.

- * The deadline for nominations is March 15, 1996.
- * Please read this Call for Nominations to your Board. You will be seeking suggestions for a nominee plus someone to write up the nomination and submit it by the deadline date.
- * Publish it in your Bulletin. Explain to your membership how both the Hope Washburn Award and the Peggy Thompson Award bring great honor to the person as well as their League.

The criteria for the Hope Washburn Award are:

- · Outstanding Service to LWVMN;
- · Community Service;
- · Enthusiasm and Innovative Ideas;
- Staying Power;
- Used League principles and/or positions as motivation to serve/enhance the League as a statewide organization.

Your Nominating Committee members greatly appreciate your attention to these awards. They are Sandra Cooper, Chair, LWV Eastern Carver County; Marylyn Deneen, LWV St. Paul; and Harriette Burkhalter, LWV MEPH. These members were elected by 1995 Convention delegates; two more members from the LWVMN Board will be appointed in February, 1996.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1996 HOPE WASHBURN AWARD

Name:					
Address:					
League:					
Please give reason possible.	s why this person is nomi	nated. Relate the re	eason to one or n	nore or the criteria,	if
List nominee's Le	ague activities and position	ons held. Please giv	e approximate d	ates.	
Dist nominee 5 De	agae aca				
List other commu	nity activities and awards	(with approximate	dates):		
Your Name:		League:		Phone:	
Your Name:		League.		Thone.	
Please return by M Sandra Co 9730 Co. I Chaska, M	oper Rd. 43				
It is important for	the following information	n to accompany eac	h nomination if	at all possible:	

- 1. A picture of the nominee (black and white preferred, color okay)
- 2. A listing of community papers, radio, TV, with phone numbers and addresses if at all possible.
- 3. Information on family and/or other anecdotal items; how long this person has lived in the community, etc.
- 4. List name, address and phone number of your bulletin editor.



550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445

To:

Local League Presidents

From:

Sandy Cooper, Nominating Committee Chair

Date:

January 1996

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1996 PEGGY THOMPSON AWARD

At LWVMN Council, April 17, 1996, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota will present the Peggy Thompson Award which recognizes League members who have been nominated for "outstanding service to their <u>local</u> League." Peggy Thompson has a record of commitment to strengthening local Leagues. Therefore, this award focuses special recognition on Leaguers who have been instrumental in strengthening and/or stabilizing their local Leagues through varied actions which might include sustained enthusiasm, motivation of others or innovative ideas which have brought strength to both your League and perhaps your community and its citizens.

Attached is a form for your convenience. It is meant to give you an idea of the kind of information the Nominating Committee believes is essential. You may create your own format or send additional information. You may nominate more than one person. Please phone me at 612/443-2443 if you have any questions about material on file from a previous nomination.

- * Please read this Call for Nominations to your Board.
- * Publish it in your Bulletin. Explain to your membership how both the Hope Washburn Award and the Peggy Thompson Award bring great honor to the person as well as their League.
- * You will be seeking suggestions for nominees plus someone to write up the nomination and submit it by the deadline date. Your Board may want to decide how many to nominate, who to nominate for which award; who is to write the nominations but it does <u>not</u> need to approve the final written application to be submitted.
- * The deadline for nominations is March 15, 1996.

In summary, the criteria are as follows:

- Outstanding service to local League;
- Instrumental in strengthening or stabilizing local League;
- Initiated ideas, activities that have kept/made local League strong;
- Used League principles or positions as motivation to serve/enhance local community/citizens.

Your Nominating Committee members greatly appreciate your attention to these awards. They are Sandra Cooper, Chair, LWV Eastern Carver County; Marylyn Deneen, LWV St. Paul; and Harriette Burkhalter, LWV MEPH. These members were elected by 1995 Convention delegates; two more members from the LWVMN Board will be appointed in February, 1996.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1996 PEGGY THOMPSON AWARD

Name:			
Address:			
League:			
Please give reasons why this person is nomi possible.	nated. Relate the reason t	o one or more or the criteria	a, if
List nominee's League activities and position	ons held. Please give appr	oximate dates.	
List other community activities and awards	(with approximate dates):		
List other community activities and awards	(with approximate dates).		
Your Name:	League:	Phone:	
Please return by March 15, 1996 to:			
Sandra Cooper			
9730 Co. Rd. 43			
Chaska, MN 55318			
It is important for the following information	to accompany each nomi	nation if at all possible:	

- 1. A picture of the nominee (black and white preferred, color okay)
- 2. A listing of community papers, radio, TV, with phone numbers and addresses if at all possible.
- 3. Information on family and/or other anecdotal items; how long this person has lived in the community, etc.
- 4. List name, address and phone number of your bulletin editor.

MINNESOTA VOTERS' GUIDE FOR PRECINCT CAUCUSES 1996

A citizens how-to guide for participating in the 1996 precinct caucuses and for running for elected office.



PRECINCT CAUCUSES - A MINNESOTA GRASSROOTS TRADITION

Precinct caucuses are held in every state election year. The 1996 caucuses will be held on **March 5** at **7:00 p.m.**

Precinct caucuses are the beginning of the process Minnesota's major political parties use for choosing the candidates and the issues they will support in the 1996 elections. Their choices are especially important because the future of our country will be greatly affected by the president and Congress to be elected later this year.

The caucuses are open to the public and will begin at 7:00 p.m. on March 5.

What's happening at the caucuses?

At the caucuses, you will be able to elect delegates who will support the political candidates you prefer. Your delegates will go on to political party conventions held later this spring and summer. Some of the delegates may even go to the national party conventions this summer and decide your party's candidate for president.

Caucuses also give you a place to voice your views regarding issues that are important to your life and community. Issues like taxes, use of U.S. troops overseas, health care, schools, social security, and others. You can vote on resolutions that the party conventions may make a part of the party platform.

And if you think you might be interested in running for an elected office, the caucus is a good place to seek support.

Minnesota's three major political parties, Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Republican and Independence Party will all hold caucuses in 1996.

Where will my caucus be held?

The parties will announce their caucus locations in the newspapers during the week of February 26. You can also call your county auditor for your party's caucus location.

Who can attend the caucuses?

Anyone can attend a precinct caucus to observe. You can participate in your party's caucus if you will be eligible to vote on November 5, 1996 and if you support or are likely to support the party's candidates.

What if I work or have school that evening?

Minnesota Statutes 202A.19 permits you to take time off from work without pay to attend your caucus if you give your employer at least 10 days written notice.

Also, state universities, community colleges, and public schools cannot hold classes or events after 6:00 p.m. on the evening of precinct caucuses.

In addition, state agencies, school boards, county boards, township boards or city councils cannot conduct meetings after 6:00 p.m. on caucus night.

What if I'm disabled?

Most caucuses are held in buildings that are accessible to disabled persons. Delegates or alternates at party conventions may request an interpreter if needed. Requests must be submitted by certified mail to the party executive committee at least 30 days before the date of the convention. Convention materials can also be made available in alternate formats for visually impaired delegates or alternates. Contact your party's state office for more details.

How do I become a delegate?

Each caucus will elect a number of delegates. For the Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Republican parties, the number depends on the voting record in that precinct for the party's candidates in previous state elections. Delegates will take part in the party's county and district conventions, and many delegates continue on to the state convention as well. A few delegates will represent our state at their party's national convention this summer. If you would like to be a delegate, let your friends and neighbors know. Ask them to attend the caucus and to vote for you.

RUNNING FOR A PUBLIC OFFICE - AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

There's always a need for dedicated, energetic people to serve in public offices at the state, federal and local levels of government.

What offices will be elected in 1996?

Federal President and vice-president

One U.S. Senator

Eight U.S. Representatives

State 67 State senators

134 State representatives

Supreme, Appeals and District Court judges

Local Over 200 county commissioners

Many mayors, city council members Many school board members

How do I become a candidate?

All candidates for a state or federal office (except president and vicepresident) must file an affidavit of candidacy and a filing fee (or a petition in lieu of the filing fee) at the appropriate filing office. The filing period opens July 2 and closes July 16, 1996.

Candidates for state and federal offices voted upon in more than one county file with the secretary of state.

Candidates for state and federal offices voted on in only one county must file with the county auditor.

Candidates for nonpartisan local offices may have different filing dates. Check with your county auditor, municipal clerk or school district clerk for details.

What are the qualifications to run?

Generally speaking, candidates must be citizens of the United States, eligible to vote in Minnesota, a resident of the district from which elected and at least 21 years of age. Some offices have different qualifications. Prospective candidates should check with the filing officer for more details and may wish to consult the U.S. and Minnesota constitutions and state law.

How much money will I need to run?

All state, federal, county and other local offices have filing fees, ranging from \$2 to \$400. However, you can submit a petition in lieu of the filing fee. Contact the filing officer for more details.

Beyond that, there is no set amount you will need for your campaign. It's safe to say that the amount is likely to be related to the number of voters in the district. In 1994, candidates for the Minnesota House of Representatives spent an average of \$14,000 on their campaigns. Candidates for federal offices generally raise and spend considerably more. Local candidates usually spend much less.

Candidates may raise funds from individuals and committees but not from corporations. Contribution limits and/or public financing exist for some

Within Our Means Tough Choices for Government Spending

January 1995



To the People of Minnesota

In April 1994, I asked Minnesota Planning to conduct a comprehensive examination of the cost of government in Minnesota over the next 10 years.

Minnesota must anticipate future spending trends while there is still time to make adjustments. Unless we understand and respond to the forces that will drive spending in the coming years, state and local governments are in danger of continuing to lurch from deficit to deficit.

Indeed, as Within Our Means: Tough Choices for Government Spending reveals, that danger is real and already upon us. If we continue spending as we have been, Minnesota's state and local governments will face a \$2.5 billion cumulative budget gap or an average shortfall of \$625 million between the bienniums ending in fiscal years 1999 and 2005.

We must begin now to respond to this reality because the gap will not disappear by itself. Correcting this problem will require making tough but smart choices about how to control spending.

If Minnesota is to reach the future called for by its citizens in *Minnesota Milestones*, the state's long-term strategic plan, action must not be delayed. To this end, I will be making several proposals to the 1995 Legislature aimed at closing the budget gap. Making such choices will require courage, vision and support from policy-makers, as well as every Minnesotan. The future demands no less.

Warmest regards,

ARNE H. CARLSON Governor **Minnesota Planning** is charged with developing a long-range plan for the state, stimulating public participation in Minnesota's future and coordinating public policy with state agencies, the Legislature and other units of government.

Authors of *Within Our Means* were Deborah Pile, J.H. Fonkert, Mark Larson, Steve Reckers, Ray Lewis and R. Thomas Gillaspy of Minnesota Planning and Liz Emerson of the Minnesota Department of Health. Additional assistance was provided by Dan Storkamp, Barbara Ronningen, Judith M. Johnson, Julie Gullickson and many others at Minnesota Planning, the Department of Finance and other state agencies and departments.

A panel of expert advisors made valuable contributions to *Within Our Means*. Members were Representative Jim Girard; Senator Gene Merriam; Samuel Meyers, Roy Wilkins Professor, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; Judy Pattison, Big Stone County auditor; Hazel Reinhardt, president of Hazel Reinhardt Consulting Services; Dan Salomone, executive director of the Minnesota Taxpayers Association; and Tom Stinson, Minnesota state economist.

January 1995 Second printing February 1995 Third printing September 1995

Within Our Means is the culmination of an eight-month Minnesota Planning study of government spending. During the course of the project, key findings were published in a series of *Line Item* reports covering government spending for welfare migrants, public payroll, education, justice and health. Working papers also were prepared on the following topics: revenue, justice, health, prekindergarten through 12th-grade education, higher education, transportation, environment and natural resources, and local government.

For additional information or copies of Within Our Means, contact:



658 Cedar St. St. Paul, MN 55155 (612) 296-3985

Upon request, Within Our Means will be made available in alternate formats, such as Braille, large print or audio tape. For TDD, contact Minnesota Relay Service at (612) 297-5353 or (800) 627-3529 and ask for Minnesota Planning.

Printed on recycled paper with at least 10 percent post-consumer waste.

Within Our Means

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4. With what type of legislature ☐ state agency ☐ business	□ academ		? ☐ local government ☐ federal government	

5. Additional comments are appreciated:



Thank you for your help.

MINNESOTA PLANNING is charged with developing a long-range plan for the state, stimulating public participation in Minnesota's future and coordinating public policy with state agencies, the Legislature and other units of government.

Summary

Minnesota's state and local governments face a cumulative budget gap of \$2.5 billion between the bienniums ending in June 1999 and 2005, amounting to an average shortfall of \$625 million each biennium. To close the gap will require a tax increase, spending cuts or some combination of both.

The gap between revenues and expenditures is not a cyclical problem that will disappear during economic good times. It is structural and will recur, unless corrected, for two reasons: demographics and other forces will cause personal income growth to slow, dampening state and local revenue growth; and the number of people served by government will continue to grow.

The time to act is now because Minnesota is experiencing economic conditions more favorable than can be expected for many years in the future. After 2010, the proportion of Minnesotans of working age will begin to decline, while the dependent population, children and elderly people, will proportionately increase.

Minnesota ranks high in revenue raising and spending compared to other states. In 1990, Minnesota ranked seventh among the states in revenue raised as a percent of personal income - 19 percent — and sixth in total general expenditures per capita, at \$4,701.

Within Our Means examines spending trends of state and local governments, analyzes the forces driving spending and suggests options and recommendations for solving the state's budget problems. Seven major spending areas are analyzed: health care, elementary and secondary education, higher education, justice, transportation, environment and local government.

Major forces driving spending

Within Our Means identifies five key drivers of government spending.

■ Changing population characteristics. Demographic changes are powerful forces driving both revenues and spending and contributing to the gap. For example, by 2020, the number of Minnesotans age 65 and older will grow by 348,000, increasing

the need for Medical Assistance funding for nursing home care. Justice system costs are expected to escalate due to a rise in the number of 10- to 24year-olds - the age group most likely to be arrested.

■ Eligibility and level of service provided. Minnesota has enacted extensive policies aimed at ensuring health and long-term nursing home care for elderly people, the sick, people with disabilities and low- and limited-income citizens. Medical Assistance rosters have ballooned as a result. The number of special education students with emotional and other severe disabilities requiring high-cost services has also increased.

■ Standards, regulations and mandates. Standards and regulations set by the federal and state governments to maintain quality public services are very costly. The 1989 law doubling sentences for the most serious crimes and the creation of new drug offenses contributed to a \$225 million increase in justice system spending between 1984 and 1990.

■ Costs of labor, materials and other inputs. Spending is directly affected by changes in salaries and benefits for government employees. Between 1987 and 1993, spending for medical and dental benefits for public school employees rose 58 percent. All benefits, including medical and dental, retirement and Social Security, now account for 14 percent of total elementary and secondary school spending.

■ Mounting infrastructure needs. Parts of the state's public infrastructure systems will need major investments in the near future just to be maintained. If all deficiencies in public school buildings were corrected, it would cost \$1.5 billion. Even after spending \$80 to \$100 million for a new 800-bed correctional facility opening in 1999, the state expects to be short 340 prison beds in 2002.

Choices

Within Our Means identifies a number of options for addressing the budget gap:

■ Change types, levels and delivery of service. Possibilities include accelerating the use of alternative care for elderly people; stressing crime prevention and community corrections programs to help reduce future prison needs and justice system

costs; and replacing local government general purpose aid with funding for specific services that are crucial to the well-being of the state.

- Target eligibility for government services. Some options are encouraging the use of long-term care insurance; tying special education funding to measurable outcomes, increasing the portion of higher education costs paid by students; and tying homestead, agricultural and other general purpose state aid to financial need of local governments and individuals.
- Redefine standards. Choices include giving school districts more flexibility to meet personnel needs by changing teacher licensure requirements; placing a moratorium on further increases in criminal sentences and reevaluating current sentencing practices; and reducing right-of-way, lane width and other standards for highways.
- Control input costs and invest in technology. Some possibilities are containing government employee health-care costs through purchasing pools and managed competition; overhauling elementary and secondary teacher salary schedules; and controlling public employer pension contributions and changing pensions from defined benefit plans to defined contribution plans.
- Target government infrastructure investments. Alternatives include continuing to convert regional treatment centers to corrections facilities; developing alternative learning sites and enrollment options in lieu of building new schools; and reducing excess capacity in the higher education system.

Recommendations

Given these and other choices, Minnesota governments should take action in four areas to close the impending budget gap:

- Define the activities that are crucial to the future well-being of the state. Efforts and funding should focus on core activities, including prekindergarten through secondary education and basic levels of critical local government operations.
- Build more flexibility into programs and requirements at all levels of government. This includes giving school districts more latitude in deciding how students meet education standards and making it easier for local governments to obtain waivers from mandates.
- Focus on the most cost-effective approaches. This includes promoting health intervention and other program efforts with low costs and high benefits and making greater use of communitybased alternatives to prisons and nursing homes.
- Contain costs of government operations and programs. Containment measures include controlling employee health care costs through managed competition, reducing costs of services through competitive bidding and placing a moratorium on further increases in criminal sentences.

If Minnesota is to reach the future called for by citizens in Minnesota Milestones, the state's 30-year plan, action must not be delayed. It is time to take the steps needed to bridge the gap.

Facing the Gap

Minnesota's state and local governments face a cumulative \$2.5 billion gap amounting to an average shortfall of \$625 million for each biennium ending between June 1999 and June 2005. This gap between spending and revenues is structural and recurring.

During this time, combined state and local spending is expected to rise more than 50 percent, from \$39.7 billion to \$60.1 billion, but revenues will fall short of projected spending and create the gap.

A portion of the gap will emerge during each successive biennium. The mismatch between revenues and expenditures is not a short-term cyclical problem that will evaporate during economic good times. The projected shortfalls are almost automatic for two reasons:

- Personal income growth will continue to slow, dampening state and local revenue growth; and
- The number of people served by government is expected to grow substantially. These demographic shifts will cause large spending increases for health care, corrections and other programs that are difficult to control.

Within Our Means analyzes Minnesota spending and revenue trends, assesses the forces that will drive spending over the next 10 to 20 years and discusses options for controlling spending. Minnesota Planning studied spending trends and issues in major program areas, including health care, elementary and secondary education, higher education, local government, criminal justice, transportation and the environment. A panel of expert advisers reviewed and commented on the agency's work in each area. A series of Line Item reports and working papers analyzing spending trends and issues are available upon request.

This report is composed of four parts:

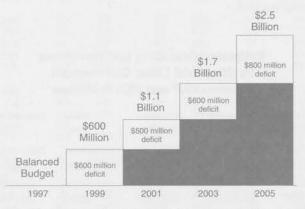
- The first chapter, "Facing the Gap," describes the likely fiscal shortfalls confronting Minnesota over the next 10 years, explains their origins and provides an overview of state and local government spending.
- The second chapter, "Forces Driving Spending," describes the most important forces that will drive the need or demand for spending. Some of these spending "drivers" are external forces beyond Minnesota's direct control; others can be changed by deliberate policy choices.

- "Making Tough Choices," the third chapter, discusses options for reshaping Minnesota's public expenditures to conform with budget realities.
- "Closing the Gap" concludes the report with a series of steps that can be taken by government to close the gap and prepare for the future.

This report deals with combined state and local government spending. Many public services are financed and delivered by a combination of state and local governments. A large portion of stateraised revenues is used to make grants to cities, townships, counties or school districts, which in turn produce or purchase services locally. The state raises about 58 percent of all government revenues in Minnesota, but after intergovernmental transfers, local governments spend about 63 percent of the total.

Unless otherwise noted, all historical figures in this report have been adjusted for inflation to 1993 dollars. Federal transfers and payments are not included in revenue figures. All fiscal years are labeled by the year in which they ended. For state government, fiscal year 1993 refers to the budget period beginning in July 1992 and ending in June

Cumulative Fiscal Gap for State and Local Governments



Projections show that there will be budget deficits of \$500 million to \$800 million every biennium, adding up to a cumulative \$2.5 billion gap.

Source: Minnesota State Demographer

Cuts in sight

Shifting part of the gap into future bienniums, in hopes of an upturn in revenues, will not be a viable option because expenditures will continue to outpace revenues year after year. Delay in solving the problem will only make the problem worse, forcing huge cuts in spending or large tax increases.

The estimates presented in this report assume that both state and local governments will take action to balance revenues and expenditures each year. The Minnesota constitution requires the state to balance its budget every two years. The estimates balance expenditures and revenues each year by cutting back spending to match revenues. These cuts will keep the gap in subsequent years a bit smaller than it would otherwise be, but they will not reduce the cumulative budget pain.

The painful truth is that budget cuts and spending freezes will be necessary beginning in fiscal year 1998, and these cuts will not be available for fixing future budgets. The outlook for at least the next six years after 1999 is cut upon cut, upon cut.

Minnesota Planning estimated state and local government revenues and expenditures for future years to illustrate the structural problems that are built into the state's current fiscal system. The estimates are based on four assumptions:

- State and federal laws and policies governing taxes, fees and expenditure obligations will remain
- Revenues will grow at the same rate as personal income; that is, revenues will remain constant at 18.4 percent of personal income.
- Spending will be cut enough at the beginning of each biennium to produce a balanced state and local budget.

Estimated Spending and Revenues by State and Local Government Between 1997 and 2005 in Millions

Biennium Ending in	Estimated Revenues	Estimated Spending	Fiscal Gap	Cumulative Gap	
1997	\$39,700	\$39,700	balanced	balanced	
1999	\$43,800	\$44,400	-\$600	-\$600	
2001	\$48,300	\$48,800	-\$500	-\$1,100	
2003	\$53,500	\$54,100	-\$600	-\$1,700	
2005	\$59,300	\$60,100	-\$800	-\$2,500	

Notes: Revenues are assumed to be held at 18.4 percent of personal income and exclude federal transfer payments. These figures represent bienniums ending in fiscal years 1997 through 2005.

Source: Minnesota State Demographer

■ Minnesota's economy will follow the same trends as the national economy, and there will be no recessions.

The estimates do not take into account possible major new initiatives, such as a new Twin Cities airport, light rail transit, expansion of MinnesotaCare eligibility beyond the 1994 level, longer prison sentences, higher water quality standards or year-round schools. Nor do they allow for unexpected costs associated with unpredictable events, such as natural disasters, major economic depressions, judicial rulings, new unfunded federal mandates or cuts in federal funding.

If these estimates are correct, no money will be left for major new initiatives unless large cuts are made in existing programs or revenues are increased.

Minnesota spends more than most states

Minnesota's state and local governments raise more revenue and spend more on public services than governments in most states. A strong revenue base has allowed Minnesota to offer more public services than other states, but with the prospect of fiscal shortfalls, all that might change.

In 1990, Minnesota state and local government revenues from taxes and other fees took 19 percent of personal income, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Six other states registered greater revenue shares from personal income than Minnesota. Minnesota ranked sixth nationally in total general expenditures per capita, at \$4,701.

The state ranked high both in taxes and other kinds of revenues in 1990. It was 12th in service charges and seventh in taxes as a percent of personal income. Taxes make up two-thirds of all revenues generated by state and local governments in Minnesota. As a percent of personal income, Minnesota's national ranking was eighth in income taxes, 26th in sales and gross-receipts taxes and 19th in property taxes.

Measured against personal income, Minnesota's state and local revenues were about the same as North Dakota's and 8 percent above Wisconsin's. Minnesota's revenue share of personal income was 14 percent greater than lowa's and 30 percent greater than South Dakota's.

The state's relatively high overall level of taxation and other revenue-raising allows it to buy more services and facilities through government than

State Rankings 1990 State and Local General Revenues and per Capita Expenditures

Rank 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	General Revenue Percent of Personal In Alaska (AK) Wyoming (WY) New Mexico (NM) Hawaii (HI) New York (NY) North Dakota (ND) Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE) Vermont (VT)		AK NY WY HI CT MN MA NJ DE CA	\$10,969 6,064 5,602 5,096 4,915 4,701 4,566 4,538 4,529 4,485	AK WY SD DE MT VT IA ND CT KS	\$1,115 835 488 487 464 449 439 432	DE ND WY AK UT IA VT	\$593 563 550 546 503 498 491	and S	\$1,877 1,395 1,340 1,196 1,164 1,155 1,075	Mainte	\$1,735 1,419 1,250 1,120 1,088 1,031
1 2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Alaska (AK) Wyoming (WY) New Mexico (NM) Hawaii (HI) New York (NY) North Dakota (ND) Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	52.7% 26.1% 21.0% 21.0% 19.8% 19.0% 19.0% 18.5% 17.8% 17.8%	AK NY WY HI CT MN MA NJ DE CA	\$10,969 6,064 5,602 5,096 4,915 4,701 4,566 4,538 4,529	AK WY SD DE MT VT IA ND CT	\$1,115 835 488 487 464 449 439	DE ND WY AK UT IA VT	\$593 563 550 546 503	AK WY NY NJ OT VT	\$1,877 1,395 1,340 1,196 1,164	NY MA AK MN CA	\$1,735 1,419 1,250 1,192 1,120
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Wyoming (WY) New Mexico (NM) Hawaii (HI) New York (NY) North Dakota (ND) Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	26.1% 21.0% 20.0% 19.8% 19.0% 19.0% 18.5% 17.8% 17.8%	MN MA NJ DE CA	6,064 5,602 5,096 4,915 4,701 4,566 4,538 4,529	WY SD DE MT VT IA ND CT	835 488 487 464 449 439	ND WY AK UT IA VT	563 550 546 503 498	WY NY NJ CT VT	1,395 1,340 1,196 1,164 1,155	MA AK MN CA	1,419 1,250 1,192 1,120
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Wyoming (WY) New Mexico (NM) Hawaii (HI) New York (NY) North Dakota (ND) Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	26.1% 21.0% 20.0% 19.8% 19.0% 19.0% 18.5% 17.8% 17.8%	MN MA NJ DE CA	6,064 5,602 5,096 4,915 4,701 4,566 4,538 4,529	WY SD DE MT VT IA ND CT	835 488 487 464 449 439	ND WY AK UT IA VT	563 550 546 503 498	WY NY NJ CT VT	1,395 1,340 1,196 1,164 1,155	MA AK MN CA	1,419 1,250 1,192 1,120
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	New Mexico (NM) Hawaii (HI) New York (NY) North Dakota (ND) Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	21.0% 20.0% 19.8% 19.0% 19.0% 18.5% 17.8% 17.8%	MY HI CT MN MA NJ DE CA	5,602 5,096 4,915 4,701 4,566 4,538 4,529	SD DE MT VT IA ND CT	488 487 464 449 439	WY AK UT IA VT	550 546 503 498	NY NJ CT VT	1,340 1,196 1,164 1,155	AK MN CA CT	1,250 1,192 1,120 1,088
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Hawaii (HI) New York (NY) North Dakota (ND) Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	20.0% 19.8% 19.0% 19.0% 18.5% 17.8% 17.8% 17.6%	MN MA NJ DE CA	5,096 4,915 4,701 4,566 4,538 4,529	VT IA ND CT	487 464 449 439	AK UT IA VT	546 503 498	NJ CT VT	1,196 1,164 1,155	MN CA CT	1,192 1,120 1,088
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	New York (NY) North Dakota (ND) Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	19.8% 19.0% 19.0% 18.5% 17.8% 17.8% 17.7% 17.6%	MN MA NJ DE CA	4,915 4,701 4,566 4,538 4,529	VT IA ND CT	464 449 439	IA VT	503 498	CT VT	1,164	CA CT	1,120
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	North Dakota (ND) Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	19.0% 19.0% 18.5% 17.8% 17.8%	MA NJ DE CA	4,701 4,566 4,538 4,529	VT IA ND CT	449 439	IA VT	498	VT	1,155	СТ	1,088
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	19.0% 18.5% 17.8% 17.8% 17.7% 17.6%	MA NJ DE CA	4,566 4,538 4,529	IA ND CT	439	VT					110000000000000000000000000000000000000
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Minnesota (MN) Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	19.0% 18.5% 17.8% 17.8% 17.7% 17.6%	MA NJ DE CA	4,566 4,538 4,529	ND CT	439	VT		WA			110000000000000000000000000000000000000
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Louisiana (LA) Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	18.5% 17.8% 17.8% 17.7% 17.6%	NJ DE CA VT	4,538 4,529	ND CT							
9 10 11 12 13 14	Arizona (AZ) Utah (UT) Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	17.8% 17.8% 17.7% 17.6%	DE CA VT	4,529	CT	402	NM	485	MN	1,066	GA	1,016
10 11 12 13 14	Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	17.8% 17.7% 17.6%	CA	2-300000		432	WI	456	ME	1,065	RI	999
11 12 13 14	Oregon (OR) West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	17.7% 17.6%	VT	4,485								
12 13 14	West Virginia (WV) Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)	17.6%			NO.	416	HI	455	WI	1,058	SC	998
13 14	Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)		731	4,295	MN	414	NE	453	MI	1,046	ME	990
13 14	Wisconsin (WI) Delaware (DE)		RI	4,292	NE	379	MI	447	MT	1,016	WY	953
14	Delaware (DE)		WA	4,220	AZ	369	CO	444	NV	1,015	LA	944
	17/1/2	17.5%	NV	4,140	ME	366	AZ	439	OR	994	WI	929
10	AGUIDIII (A1)									984	OH	919
		17.3%	MD	4,111	VA	360	MD	439	NE	504	UH	919
16	Washington (WA)	17.3%	WI	4,086	CO	360	KS	432	VA	982	IA	918
17	Montana (MT)	16.7%	ME	4,020	ID	345	OR	432	NH	978	AL	913
18	Iowa (IA)	16.7%	OR	4,017	NM	338	MN	426	MD	969	WA	879
19	Nebraska (NE)	16.5%	MI	3,995	NV	338	WA	423	CA	965	NJ	856
20	Michigan (MI)	16.5%	ND	3,917	HI	337	IN	409	PA	947	HI	838
			A 4700	0.000	20000		110	100	-00		140	000
21	Kentucky (KY)	16.5%	MT	3,876	WV	329	NC	403	CO	945	MS	830
22	Oklahoma (OK)	16.3%	IA	3,787	MD	326	AL	388	DE	935	KY	814
23	California (CA)	16.2%	AZ	3,785	NY	324	CA	388	RI	931	NC	809
24	Colorado (CO)	16.2%	CO	3,782	OK	322	ID	370	FL	923	VT	808
25	Mississippi (MS)	16.1%	FL	3,775	WI	320	SC	364	NM	920	IN	802
26	Idaho (ID)	16.1%	NM	3,715	IL	314	VA	363	IA	907	OK	772
27	Maine (ME)	16.0%	LA	3,707	OR	310	TX	353	IN	903	PA	768
28	Nevada (NV)	16.0%	VA	3,671	WA	307	MS	350	MA	893	NM	760
29	South Carolina (SC)	15.9%	IL	3,644	LA	304	KY	336	OH	890	FL	756
30	Georgia (GA)	15.7%	NE	3,617	NJ	292	TN	323	KS	889	DE	751
2.02	EN 200 2000	100000		120222	1000	-	-				-	
31	Florida (FL)	15.6%	GA	3,555	KY	286	OH	322	TX	888	TN	748
32	Texas (TX)	15.5%	KS	3,540	MS	284	WV	318	GA	887	NE	743
33	Kansas (KS)	15.4%	PA	3,540	NH	283	OK	317	SC	886	OR	734
34	Indiana (IN)	15.4%	OH	3,535	TN	273	IL.	315	AZ	880	IL	713
35	Alabama (AL)	15.2%	SC	3,471	RI	271	AR	311	NC	860	MT	704
36	Rhode Island (RI)	15.0%	NH	3,382	MO	269	RI	307	SD	858	MD	692
37	Ohio (OH)	14.9%	NC	3,358	PA	263	LA	306	UT	855	KS	687
	North Carolina (NC)		UT	3,337	TX	258	NY	297	ND	853	VA	676
38		14.8%										
39	New Jersey (NJ)	14.7%	IN	3,315	GA	257	ME	297	MO	843	AR	675
40	Massachusetts (MA)	14.7%	SD	3,263	NC	255	MT	288	IL	841	CO	661
41	South Dakota (SD)	14.6%	KY	3,260	ОН	253	NV	277	WV	835	MO	659
42	Virginia (VA)	14.4%	AL	3,255	AR	253	SD	270	OK	831	WV	659
43	Maryland (MD)	14.1%	OK	3,230	FL	250	MO	265	ID	804	ND	651
44	Pennsylvania (PA)	13.9%	TX	3,203	AL	243	NJ	263	LA	790	TX	642
45	Arkansas (AR)	13.9%	WV	3,170	UT	234	GA	260	HI	763	ID	606
46	Illinois (IL)	12.09/	ID	2 157	MI	230	FL	253	MS	701	NH	602
	NOTE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR	13.9%	ID	3,157								
47	Tennessee (TN)	13.7%	TN	3,050	IN	225	NH	240	KY	689	UT	579
48	Connecticut (CT)	13.3%	MS	2,982	MA	203	CT	235	AR	685	AZ	579
49	Missouri (MO)	12.8%	MO	2,947	CA	201	MA	227	AL	681	NV	565
50	New Hampshire (NH)	12.7%	AR	2,700	SC	190	PA	197	TN	633	SD	534
	United States (US)	16.0%	US	3,983	US	285	US	345	US	955	US	928

Notes: Revenue data excludes federal grants. Alaska's unusually high revenues reflect large oil and mineral royalties and interest earnings. Source: U.S. Census Bureau

most states. Per capita, Minnesota ranked eighth in operating expenditures and seventh in capital outlays for buildings, roads and other physical facilities

Minnesota's per capita spending rank in 1990 was fourth in social services, health and income maintenance, sixth in parks and recreation, seventh in sewer systems, eighth in elementary and secondary education, 11th in highways and streets and 18th in higher education.

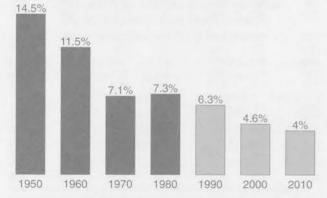
Spending in Minnesota was average or below in other areas, such as 26th in law enforcement services, 35th in fire protection and 38th in corrections.

Minnesota's total public debt ranked 16th at \$4,265 per capita. In 1990, total interest payments on public debt were \$269 per capita, 13th highest nationally.

Higher than average government salaries contributed to the state's high spending rankings. Overall, Minnesota ranked fourth in per capita state and local salaries and wages. The state had fewer government employees than most, ranking 28th in the total number of public employees per 1.000 population in 1991. Yet, it had more elected officials per capita than 42 other states and more governmental units per 1,000 people than 43 other states in 1992.

Minnesota spent 15 percent more per capita than Wisconsin, its most similar neighbor. The difference between Minnesota and its other neighbors was greater. Minnesota's per capita spending was 20 percent greater than North Dakota's, 24 percent greater than lowa's and 44 percent greater than South Dakota's.

Minnesota's Population Growth Slowing Percent Change for Each Decade



Note: The figures for 1990, 2000 and 2010 are projections. Each bar represents the rate for the decade.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Minnesota State Demographer

Four decades of growth

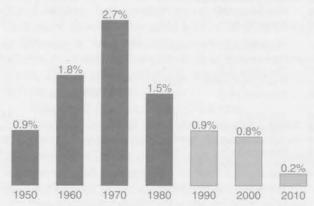
Over most of the last 40 years, the characteristics of Minnesota's population supported strong growth in government revenues. But all that has

From 1950 to 1990, Minnesota's population increased by nearly 1.5 million people, or by more than 49 percent. Most of that growth, however, occurred between 1950 and 1970, when it was more than 1 percent annually. Population growth began to slow in the 1970s, but household formation rates picked up as baby boom children left home and pushed consumer spending up by buying big-ticket items, such as homes, appliances and furniture.

Now, population growth is at its lowest level since World War II. During the current decade, population growth is expected to be only six-tenths of a percent per year, and the rate will continue to fall through 2020. The aging of Minnesota's population and declining fertility rates virtually guarantee that this trend will continue.

In the last 40 years, the state's labor force increased rapidly, especially in the 1970s, when it rose almost 3 percent annually. Labor force growth during the 1970s was advanced by baby boomers entering the work force and the rapid increase in the percentage of female workers. The youngest of the baby boomers are now in their mid-30s and approaching their peak earning years. Female participation in the labor force cannot rise much more; 80 percent of women age 20 to 44 are already working outside the home.

Slow Growth Projected for Labor Force Average Annual Percent Change for Each Decade



Note: The figures for 1990, 2000 and 2010 are projections. Each bar represents the rate for the decade

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Minnesota State Demographer

During the 1990s, labor force growth slowed to about 1 percent per year. It will slip further in the next decade and approach zero by 2020.

Between 1950 and 1970, personal income rose about 5 percent per year. In the 1990s, personal income growth reached its postwar low point. This largely reflects the slowed rates of growth in population, household formation and labor force. The aging of the population also puts the brakes on many kinds of consumer spending. The percentage of Minnesotans older than 65 will go from less than 13 percent in 1995 to 18 percent in 2020.

Spending soared

Spending grew at a faster pace than the population between 1950 and 1990. Minnesota's state and local government spending per capita leaped 357 percent. This rising level of spending has contributed to the fiscal gap.

Spending also rose faster than personal income, which grew 143 percent between 1950 and 1990. Before 1960, revenues raised by state and local governments were about 12 percent of personal income. By the mid-1970s, the public-sector share went up to about 19 percent, where it has remained.

Data in this section on state and local spending includes spending financed with federal grants. Federal grants equaled 16 percent of total state and local spending in 1990. In 1950, they funded less than 10 percent of state and local spending and peaked at more than 20 percent in the 1970s.

ments in an attempt to hold down property taxes. After 1978, government spending growth slowed to about 2 percent annually. Revenue

growth slowed after the Legislature indexed income tax brackets so that wage earners would not be pushed into higher tax brackets unless their incomes grew faster than inflation. A national recession also stalled economic growth.

The biggest rise in state and local spending

over the last 40 years came during the 1950s and

1960s, when population was growing fastest. Per

capita government spending grew 128 percent, or

about 5 percent annually, between 1950 and 1967.

The biggest increases were for schools and were

annually between 1967 and 1978. During this pe-

riod, Minnesota increasingly used state sales and

income taxes to fund schools and local govern-

Spending growth slowed to about 3.5 percent

paid for largely through property taxes.

Spending shifted toward social services

Since the late 1960s, the share of state and local government spending devoted to social services has grown the fastest, from 15 percent in 1967 to 25 percent in 1990. "Social services" refers to the Census Bureau's spending category that includes social services, income maintenance and health services. Shares devoted to such core areas as highways and education have declined.

Sluggish Gains in Total Personal Income Percent Increase — Five-Year Average



Notes: Each bar represents a five-year annual average for growth in personal income beginning with the stated year. The figures for 1995 and 2000 are projections

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Minnesota State Demographer

State and Local Government Spending Climbs In Billions of Dollars



Notes: All figures have been adjusted for inflation to 1993 dollars. Data from 1950 to 1960 is from the Minnesota Public Examiner and that from 1965 on is from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sources: Minnesota Public Examiner, Office of the State Auditor and U.S. Census Bureau

On a per capita basis, spending for social services escalated 218 percent or \$825 between 1967 and 1990.

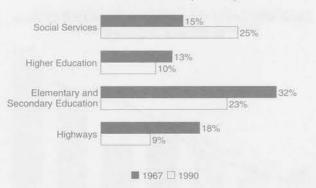
This shift toward social services spending was driven by demographic changes beyond Minnesota's control, along with broadened eligibility for services. The single most critical factor determining the cost of many health and income maintenance programs is the number of people who, by virtue of income, age or other characteristics, are eligible for assistance. Eligibility for these services is an "entitlement," meaning that anyone who is eligible is entitled to the assistance. Limiting eligibility to control spending becomes politically difficult.

The question of how to deal with rising entitlement costs is being debated nationally. Without commensurate growth in revenues, rising entitlement costs will consume an ever-increasing share of public spending.

Health, education and income maintenance now consume the most

Education, health, hospitals and income maintenance programs accounted for nearly 60 percent of all general expenditures by Minnesota state and local governments in 1990.

Budget Share Changes in Four Major Categories Percent of Total Spending



Adjusted for inflation to 1993 dollars, total state and local spending in 1967 was \$9 billion, and in 1990, it reached \$20.8 billion.

Note: The social services category includes health services and income

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Some of the most highly visible services provided by government accounted for relatively small portions of total spending. Law enforcement, corrections and court-related services made up about 6 percent of state and local spending. All transportation spending, including streets and highways, consumed 10 percent of the total.

General government expenses, including financial administration and public buildings, claimed only 4 percent of total spending. Interest on debt made up 6 percent of the total.

Most social services spending is for health

The social services category includes a broad range of services aimed primarily at helping financially needy people, including elderly people with limited incomes. More than 70 percent of government expenditures in this category were related to health. Most went to health care providers, such as nursing homes, to purchase care for people with limited incomes. In 1990, Minnesota's state and local governments spent \$1.8 billion for such services, mostly through the Medical Assistance program. About half of this amount was paid from federal grants. Minnesota ranks eighth highest nationally in per capita cash assistance payments to individuals and fourth highest in per capita payments to medical vendors.

Spending for Six Fastest Growing Areas Change per Capita - 1967 to 1990



Total state and local spending per capita increased \$2,289 between 1967 and 1990.

Notes: All figures have been adjusted for inflation. General government includes general and financial administration, government buildings and the judiciary.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Publicly owned hospitals and health facilities cost another \$1.5 billion. Other public health and environmental health services accounted for \$513 million of the total.

By comparison, cash assistance to individuals, at \$614 million, was only 11 percent of the larger social services category. The largest cash assistance programs are Aid to Families with Dependent Children, General Assistance and Minnesota Supplemental Aid for people with disabilities. Federal grants cover more than half of AFDC expenditures.

Cash payments to individuals, commonly referred to as welfare payments, were less than 3 percent of total state and local general expendi-

Action is needed now

If there is a time to solve the state's fiscal problems, it is now. The economy has been strong. The percentage of Minnesotans of working age is still growing and will reach an all-time high in 2010, before beginning a long-term decline. Over the next 15 years, the combined proportion of children and elderly — the age groups most dependent on support from others — will be less than at any time since 1950. From now to the year 2010, the state will have a maximum percentage of people in their peak earning years. After 2010, solutions will be

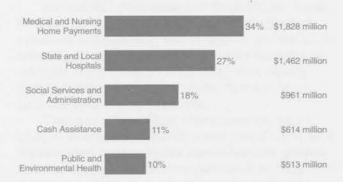
more difficult, as the percentage of Minnesotans of working age begins to decline.

Closing the gap might not seem so painful if a cut could be taken from every state and local program across the board. However, the problem is not that simple to solve. Some large programs, such as Medical Assistance, cannot be easily cut because certain basic services are required by the federal government. In other cases, taxes are dedicated to particular programs, such as highways, and cannot be used for other purposes.

Unless these spending restrictions are changed, a disproportionate share of cuts might have to be made in other programs - such as education, snowplowing, police and fire protection, natural resource management and parks. Unless Minnesota steps back from current spending commitments or finds radically different and cheaper ways of providing public services, less money will be available for basic services, such as public safety, education and transportation.

The state's 30-year plan, Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future, describes the people's priorities and can be used to make the tough budget choices ahead. Created with the help of more than 10.000 Minnesotans. Minnesota Milestones defines a shared vision for the future of the state and offers 20 goals with 79 milestones or ways to measure progress over time. It is a tool to help create the kind of future wanted by Minnesotans for themselves and their children.

Social Services Spending in 1990

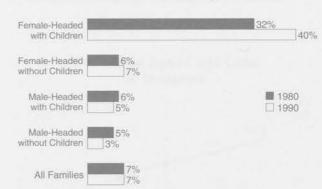


\$5.4 billion was spent on health, income maintenance and social services in 1990.

Notes: Figures include expenditures paid with federal revenues. Cash assistance includes Aid to Families with Dependent Children, General Assistance and Minnesota Supplemental Aid.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Minnesota Families Living in Poverty



The 1990 federal poverty line for a family of four was \$14,775 in 1993 dollars.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Forces Driving Spending

Social, economic and political forces drive government spending and cause it to change substantially over time. Within Our Means analyzes the influences on past spending and what is likely to affect future spending in seven major areas: elementary and secondary education; health, including Medical Assistance to needy people; higher education; transportation; criminal justice; environment; and local government.

Five key drivers of government spending emerged from this analysis:

- Changing population characteristics
- Eligibility and level of service
- Standards, regulations and mandates
- Costs of labor, materials and other inputs
- Mounting infrastructure needs

In this chapter, these drivers are discussed in terms of their effects in one or more of the seven spending areas.

While forces drive the demand for services, citizens' attitudes and expectations ultimately determine public spending choices. In addition, inflexible and outmoded methods can significantly inhibit cost-saving change in government.

Changing population characteristics

Minnesota's population and its changing characteristics are the most powerful forces driving both revenues and spending and contributing to the \$2.5 billion fiscal gap. More people — more students to educate, more traffic on roadways, more elderly people needing long-term nursing home care — give rise to spending increases.

Changes in household characteristics, especially in income, significantly affect spending. Where Minnesotans choose to live also influences government budgets. The state's population is shifting from rural and central-city areas to suburbs and other growth centers. Population shifts affect local government budgets for roads, sewers, water facilities and other basic public services. In the Twin Cities and other growing areas, development continues to jump beyond communities with basic public services to more rural areas where services must be added.

Old roads, sewers, public buildings and schools are underused as new ones are constructed.

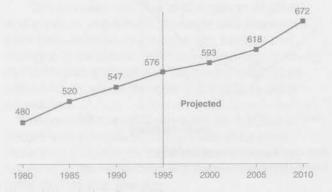
Aging population exerts pressure on health spending

Minnesota spent \$947 million to provide medical care for low-income people through Medical Assistance in 1993, 64 percent of the state's total health spending. Of this amount, nearly half — 46 percent — was spent on people age 65 and older.

Between 1980 and 1993, Minnesota's population age 65 and older rose by 14 percent, or 70,000 people. This age group is projected to increase by another 348,000 by 2020. The number of elderly people enrolled in Medical Assistance is expected to go up 17 percent from 46,000 in 1993 to 54,000 in 1999. At the same time, state and federal Medical Assistance spending for this age group is estimated to grow by almost half, from \$838 million to \$1.2 billion

The likelihood of living in a nursing home and receiving Medical Assistance increases with age. In 1993, more than 25 out of every 1,000 Minnesotans age 65 to 84 years and more than 190 out of every 1,000 age 85 and over lived in a nursing home and received Medical Assistance. Assuming these institutionalization rates continue, nearly 5,000 more elderly people will need nursing home care paid for by Medical Assistance in 2000 than in 1990.

Population Age 65 and Older in Thousands



Source: Minnesota State Demographe

More elementary and secondary students drive up costs

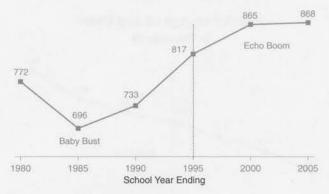
The number of students in public elementary and secondary schools has grown by more than 120,000, from a low point at the end of the baby bust in 1985 to an estimated 817,000 in the current school year. Enrollment is projected to rise an additional 50,000 by 2001. This additional growth will cost \$320 million per year by 2001 in state, local and federal funds, as well as parent fees, using the 1993 spending rate of \$6,353 per student. General education formula funding will cover \$210 million of the total at the current per pupil rate of \$3,150.

Pressure to accommodate more students is concentrated in the Twin Cities. The Minnesota Department of Education expects the seven metropolitan counties to gain 54,000 students from 1995 to 2001, while the state's other counties may lose 4,000. Half of all growth from 1993 to 1999 is anticipated to occur in only 10 of the state's 379 school districts. The continuing decline in rural enrollment drives up the per student cost of educating children who remain in schools with excess capacity, as the Legislative Auditor found in the late 1980s.

Poverty, family changes stimulate education programs, spending

Increases in child poverty, single-parent and two-parent working families, and limited-Englishspeaking students have stimulated demand for more education spending and new programs. State funding formulas provide extra aid to school districts

Growing School Enrollment Prekindergarten to 12th Grade in Thousands



Note: Data is projected for 1995 to 2005. Source: Minnesota Department of Education with concentrations of low-income students. State aid to school districts with concentrations of AFDC students is projected to grow from \$84 million in 1993 to \$129 million in 1997.

Over the 10-year period ending in 1993, spending for early childhood family education climbed from \$2 million to \$37 million and for adult and family literacy from \$3 million to \$21 million. Additional dollars went to drug prevention, AIDS prevention, limited-English programs, desegregation and multicultural initiatives. Parent fees and federal funds provided some of the revenue.

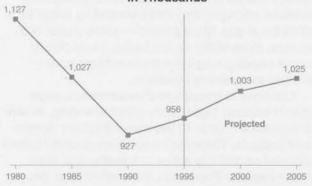
Justice costs will go up with rise in youth population

Minnesota's justice price tag climbed past \$1 billion in 1990, a \$225 million increase above 1984. The justice system includes law enforcement, courtrelated services and corrections. This spending trend is expected to escalate with the increase in the number of 10- to 24-year-olds, those most likely to be arrested. While this age group accounted for only 21 percent of Minnesota's population in 1990, it was 52 percent of people arrested for violent crimes and 57 percent of all arrests. The size of this group is expected to peak in 2005.

Pressures rise on highway and transit systems

The volume of travel on Minnesota's highways has increased much faster than population. From 1970 to 1990, the Twin Cities population increased

Number of Youth Age 10 to 24 Rising in Thousands



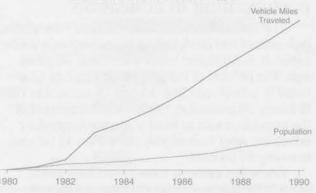
Note: Annual populations are based on the 1980 and 1990 census. The 1995, 2000, and 2005 population projections are estimates. Source: Minnesota State Demographer

by 22 percent, while the vehicle-miles traveled increased 130 percent. Fewer people are using public transit or car pools. The resulting congestion will worsen as the population increases and concentrates in the state's metropolitan regions, accelerating demand for relief from gridlock.

The needs of people with disabilities and an increasing elderly population are stimulating demand for alternatives to the automobile. Metro Mobility, the Twin Cities system for providing transit service to people with restricted mobility, grew from giving 372,000 rides in 1980 to 1.1 million in 1993. Over the same period, total program costs rose from \$3.7 million to \$16 million. Metro Mobility ridership is expected to continue to rise as the number of elderly people increases. But many people with disabilities do not qualify for Metro Mobility, and federal and state laws require that transit systems be made accessible to all. Further costs are being incurred to meet this requirement and modify regular-route buses to accommodate disabled and elderly passengers.

Demands will be great outside the Twin Cities as well if people remain in rural areas and small towns as they age. A 1991 Minnesota Department of Transportation survey found that elderly people and people with disabilities accounted for more than 70 percent of transit riders in rural and small urban areas. Service-on-call systems in rural areas had a 53 percent increase in ridership from 1987 to 1992 and operating costs of \$7 million in 1993. However, 19 counties outside the Twin Cities area have no transit service; six of these are projected to have elderly populations of more than 20 percent by

Traffic Increased Faster Than Population Percent Increase Since 1980



Between 1980 and 1990, the number of vehicle miles traveled increased 36 percent, while population rose 7 percent in Minnesota.

Source: Minnesota Department of Transportation

2010. Another 22 counties have service only in one or two cities. Current vehicle replacement needs for existing systems exceed \$4 million per year, just to maintain 1992 service levels.

Eligibility and level of service provided

The kinds of services available and criteria for eligibility are two great determinants of government spending. Changes in services and eligibility have caused tremendous spending increases for education and health care. Minnesota has enacted extensive policies aimed at ensuring health and nursing home care for elderly people, the sick, people with disabilities and low-income citizens.

Health care spending aims to ensure equal access

In 1993, 97 percent of state government health spending was for individuals with limited assets or low incomes who otherwise might not have access to health services. Service additions in recent years include the Children's Health Plan, MinnesotaCare, home care and expanded residential community care for elderly people and people with disabilities.

The number of people with disabilities receiving services has increased markedly. This growth is most apparent in the Medical Assistance program. where the number of enrollees with disabilities increased from 23,670 in 1980 to 49,874 in 1993.

In the late 1980s, total state and federal Medical Assistance dollars spent for people with disabilities surpassed the total spent for elderly people. By 1988, \$472 million was spent on people with disabilities and \$451 million for elderly people. However, this trend should reverse itself as the number of elderly people grows.

The increase was due to changes in eligibility and services, movement of people with disabilities from institutions to community care settings and changes in definitions. With few exceptions, such as cystic fibrosis and spina bifida, the increase does not reflect an actual increase in disabilities in the population.

Minnesota spends generously for the care of people with disabilities. In 1991, the state spent more than \$14,000 per disabled person receiving services — the highest of all states and more than twice the national average.

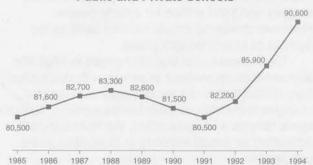
The total number of people enrolled in Medical Assistance increased by more than 190,000 from 1980 to 1993 — almost 15 times more than would be expected from the growth in the general population. At the same time, state spending for Medical Assistance more than doubled, from \$449 million in 1980 to \$947 million in 1993. Since 1988, the Legislature has expanded Medical Assistance eligibility on more than 10 occasions. Expansions included removing assets as a qualifying factor for all children under age 21 and for parents of Medical Assistance-eligible children, covering children's home-based mental health services and covering infants in families with incomes at or below 275 percent of the federal poverty level. In 1993, 275 percent of poverty for a family of four was \$39,462.

Major spending increases are likely for veterans' care. The number of people in state veterans' homes could double within five years. Currently, 570 veterans are living in these homes. Veterans from World War II are entering their 70s and 80s, and the population of veterans age 85 and older is expected to more than triple by 2005 to 13,000. Based on current per capita rates, the \$26 million now spent on veterans' homes could triple.

Special education costs are escalating

Special education spending from all sources increased 81 percent from 1982 through 1993, reaching \$602 million. It was the fastest growing of the major program categories in education spending.

> **Special Education Enrollment Grew Public and Private Schools**



Special education students were 10 percent of the total enrollment in both 1985 and 1994.

Notes: Enrollment figures are based on the December 1 child count in school years ending in 1985 through 1994 and include students from birth to age 21.

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

In 1994, special education served 91,000 Minnesota children with a wide variety of needs, including those with physical limitations and learning, emotional and mental disabilities. Special education provides extra funding for specialized learning settings, instructors, equipment and materials, and support services to help students with disabilities function in regular classrooms. Some children are placed in special schools. Federal law obligates school districts to provide "free and appropriate education" in the "least restrictive environment."

National research has shown that educating children with disabilities on average costs 2.3 times the rate of other children. About 95 percent of special education is paid with state or local funds.

If spending increases for special education continue at the recent annual rate of about 7 percent. the total special education bill will reach \$1 billion in the year 2001. Between fiscal years 1982 and 1993. more than 46 percent of the increase in special education spending was for children classified as emotionally disturbed or learning disabled.

Changes in public attitudes and federal and state policy over the last 20 years are major forces driving special education spending. Beginning in 1973, a series of federal laws was created that require public education to be provided to people with disabilities from birth to age 22. Under the new laws, schools must teach children with disabilities in regular classrooms whenever possible, and buildings must be made accessible. Before 1975, hundreds of children with special needs were in state institutions or at home, receiving little or no education.

More people, age groups are participating in education

The share of Minnesota's population completing high school and participating in postsecondary education is much higher today than it was 40 years ago. The percent of the population age 5 to 17 enrolled in school rose from almost 78 percent in 1950 to nearly 94 percent in 1990, while the percent of the population with at least some postsecondary education went from slightly more than 14 percent to nearly 50 percent.

Education systems have grown from public schools for grades one to 12 to include life-long services. In 1993, \$1 billion from the state general fund was spent on higher education. More students, including working and unemployed adults of all ages, are attending college or adult education programs with public support. Services also have expanded to cover preschoolers.

Standards, regulations and mandates

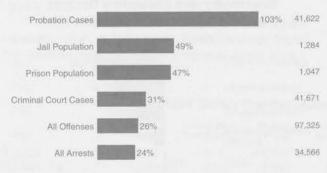
Large numbers of standards and regulations set by the federal and state governments are driving spending for public services. These mandates cost state and local governments, as well as individuals. Sometimes, the costs of standards imposed by one jurisdiction end up being borne by another. A U.S. Conference of Mayors survey found, for example, that underfunded federal mandates cost St. Paul \$20 million and Brooklyn Park \$1 million in 1993.

Minnesota often has pioneered legislation setting standards higher and broader than other states in such areas as environmental regulation, longterm care, child care licensing and roads. The costs of these high standards also contribute to the spending gap. For example, Minnesota highway standards can increase project costs anywhere from one-half of 1 percent to 5 percent.

Graduation standards could lead to more spending

Cost implications of the state's proposed high school graduation standards will be outlined by the Minnesota Department of Education in a study to be released in March 1995. Competency standards for reading and math are expected in 1996. While such

Justice Workload Growth Percent and Actual Change - 1985 to 1991



Notes: Criminal court cases include all felonies, gross misdemeanors and nontraffic misdemeanors but not juvenile cases. All probation cases were as of December 31. Adult and juvenile jail populations are a daily average, while adult prison population is a yearly average

Sources: Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Minnesota Supreme Court, Minnesota Department of Corrections

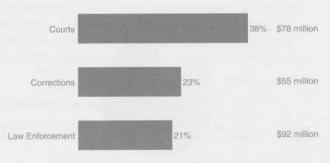
standards should make possible the elimination of many rules governing how schools operate and are organized, they could lead to more costs if they are introduced without eliminating rules and reorganizing schools. Additional costs might include programs to bring marginal students up to proficiency, assessment systems to measure student competence and training necessary to implement the new standards.

More law enforcement and tougher sentences add to bill

During the last decade, policy-makers created new criminal offenses and lengthened sentences, causing dramatic increases in justice system workloads. More arrests and cases prosecuted, compounded with longer sentences, have swelled the number of offenders on probation and in jails and prisons. Justice system spending climbed \$225 million between 1984 and 1990.

Among the policy changes behind this spending growth were the 1989 laws doubling sentences for some of the most serious crimes and the expansion of drug offenses. Defendants incarcerated under these laws are not eligible for probation, parole, discharge or supervised release until they have served the minimum sentence ranging from six months to 30 years. Between 1990 and 1994, penalties also increased for driving while impaired, sexual assault, substance abuse, domestic abuse, firearm offenses, murder and arson. The full impact of these and other changes will not be felt until the next century.

> **Justice Spending Increases** Percent and Actual Change - 1984 to 1990



Note: Courts spending includes the costs of both civil and criminal cases Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Judges have ordered more offenders to comply with the conditions of probation, such as completion of education or treatment programs, community service and victim restitution. Tougher sentencing options for juvenile offenders starting in 1995 will increase state and local costs for public defense and detention facilities.

Clean water costs rise for local and state governments

Minnesota cities spent \$679 million on existing sewer and water utilities in 1992. The costs of meeting federal standards and requirements, however, continue to rise. Federal laws, for example, require the monitoring of more than 80 contaminants in public drinking-water supplies. A recent Minnesota Pollution Control Agency questionnaire completed by 543 cities identified more than \$338 million worth of wastewater treatment needs over the next five years. The price tag for other water pollution control efforts could be high as well. Over the past five years, about \$11 million in state money has been spent on agricultural and other land use pollution problems in the Minnesota River basin alone. Federal agencies, local governments and conservation groups have contributed additional funds.

Costs of labor, materials and other inputs

Two important components of government spending are the cost of labor and capital invest-

Public Employee Payroll and Benefits in 1992



Note: Benefits include employer contributions to Social Security,

Source: Minnesota Department of Finance

ments. Hence, spending is easily affected by changes in salaries, benefits and costs of materials. This is especially true for government administration, education and health care services. Total state and local government spending for salaries, wages and benefits was \$8.5 billion in 1992.

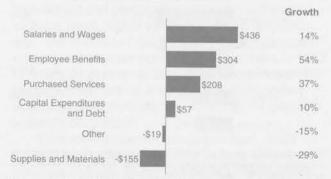
Payroll costs make up large share of government spending

Payroll costs made up 40 percent of all state and local government spending in 1991: 58 percent for school districts, 31 percent for counties, 32 percent for cities and 36 percent for the state. Payroll's share of total spending actually declined slightly between 1980 and 1991 for all jurisdictions but the

Payroll includes salaries, wages, fees, commissions and bonuses paid to employees but not benefits. Benefits, such as employer contributions to Social Security, health insurance and retirement, account for about 20 percent of total payroll and benefits. This does not include benefits associated with sick leave, vacation or worker's compensation.

Because salaries, wages and benefits account for such a large amount of government spending. small incremental changes can have significant financial impact over time. Adjusted for inflation, per capita public payrolls grew by 16 percent between 1980 and 1991. If the trend continues during the next 11 years, it would result in average annual increases of more than 1 percent. While this rate may seem small, the cumulative effect would be an increase in total payroll and benefits by 2005 of

Spending Changes per **Elementary and Secondary Student** by Budget Category - 1981 to 1993



Notes: Includes Social Security and teacher retirement for all years. Excludes construction fund. All figures have been adjusted for inflation to

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

about \$1.4 billion, even after adjusting for inflation and population growth.

This assumes that benefits will grow at the same rate as payroll. Benefits actually grew faster than payrolls between 1980 and 1991.

Rising labor costs reflect salary increases, more expensive fringe benefits or more government employees. Labor agreements that contain salary and benefit increases above the rate of inflation and mandates for government services would contribute to growing labor costs.

Public employee salaries vary across jurisdictions

Almost 7 percent, or 17,000, of all public employees in Minnesota earned \$50,000 or more a year in 1992. Ten percent of state employees earn more than \$50,000. Five percent of county and 4 percent of school and city employees also fall in this group.

Some jurisdictions in 1994 had a higher percentage of their employees earning more than \$50,000 a year than did the state. Matching or exceeding the state's 10 percent were Minnesota's two largest counties and cities: Hennepin County and Minneapolis, with almost 10 percent each, and Ramsey County and St. Paul, with nearly 12 percent each. About 8 percent of Rochester's workers made more than \$50,000 in 1994.

This pattern also held for the number of employees earning more than \$78,500, the top pay for state agency heads. In Minneapolis, St. Paul and Hennepin and Ramsey counties, the division directors, typically the next level below department heads, make about the same as state agency heads. Salaries of the top positions in these local governments exceed the salaries paid to state agency heads.

Though the pay for some top public-sector jobs may seem high, a 1991 State Auditor's study found that salaries for government's top managers were

significantly less than those of their private-sector counterparts. This may be due in part to a salary cap enacted by the Legislature in 1983 that limits local government salaries to 95 percent of the Governor's salary; the cap in 1993 was \$103,600.

The auditor's study also found that public employees in nonprofessional jobs paying less than \$50,000 per year generally earned more than private-sector workers. Professional and middle management jobs paying more than \$50,000 were about the same in both sectors.

Medical goods and services costs rise faster than others

Adding to government's growing bill for health care is the rise in the cost of medical goods and services. The medical consumer price index increased at twice the pace of the consumer price index from 1980 to 1990 — up by more than 117 percent, compared to almost 59 percent. Up to 80 percent of state government health spending is for medical goods and services.

The Minnesota Health Care Commission addressed this rapid cost increase by setting annual growth limits, beginning in 1994, for private and public spending on health care services. With legislative authority, the state monitors changes in fees charged by health care providers and premiums negotiated by employers and other payers. The state has the authority to enforce limits beginning in 1996.

Additional measures require pharmacists to substitute lower-cost generic drugs where appropriate, require review of certain new medical technologies, encourage competition and reduce administrative costs.

These actions are expected to lower the rate of growth by at least 10 percent annually. In 1993, for example, \$309 million of the state's spending on Medical Assistance went for medical goods and services, including hospitals, prescribed drugs, phy-

1994 Salary Comparisons by Selected Jurisdictions

	Number of Earning Mo		Percent		Earn	ing More Than \$7	8.500		Percent
	Employees	Than \$50,000	of Total	Attorneys	Doctors	Higher Ed	Other	Total	of Total
St. Paul	3,500	418	11.9%	11	0	0	32	43	12
Minneapolis	4,355	431	9.9%	15	0	0	16	31	0.7
Rochester	1,000	79	7.9%	0	0	0	3	3	0.3
Hennepin County	12,103	1,184	9.8%	41	11	0	49	101	0.8
Ramsey County	3,600	417	11.6%	16	0	0	18	34	0.9
State	42,043	3,978	9.5%	11	88	81	20	200	0.5

Note: "Other" includes department heads, assistant department heads, division directors and some top-level professional positions, such as engineers. Source: Minnesota Department of Employee Relations

sicians, medical providers, ambulance service, lab and x-ray services, and medical supplies. Reducing the inflation rate of these costs by just 1 percent would save \$3 million a year.

Benefit costs push up education's labor bill

Employee benefit costs in public schools rose from 10 percent to 14 percent of total spending from 1981 to 1993. Per student, the cost of employee benefits grew 54 percent, while salary costs went up 14 percent.

Increases in health insurance costs and in required employer Social Security contributions were the major causes of these gains. Medical and dental benefit costs increased 58 percent from 1987 to 1993, surging past retirement and Social Security to become the largest benefit expenditure for schools. In 1993, medical and dental benefits cost schools \$215 million, while retirement cost \$203 million and Social Security \$195 million.

Schools have begun only recently to take advantage of managed care and pooled purchasing of health coverage.

Education technology needs are growing

To prepare students properly for the future, experts now suggest that schools should have one computer for every one to six students. In 1993, Minnesota's public schools had one for every 12 students, or about 70,000 computers. About threequarters of these are outdated.

At current enrollment, the cost to provide a computer workstation for every student could reach \$1.5 billion. The bill to furnish one workstation for every six students would be \$230 million. Costs could be two to three times higher, however, when training, support, maintenance, software and connections to internal and external information sources are included. The new School for Environmental Studies in Apple Valley will be the first school in Minnesota to have a workstation for each student.

For Minnesota's public colleges and universities, technology investments also will be necessary simply to remain competitive with private colleges and schools in other states.

Selected Top Governmental Salaries As of December 1994

St. Paul Attorney Chief accountant Associate city engineer Superintendent of parks and recreation Library administrator Mayor	\$91,225 88,627 88,627 86,106 86,105 77,947	Hennepin County Physician (adult services) County administrator Director, Community Corrections Director, Public Works Sheriff Chair, county board	\$133,199 103,596 97,392 97,392 93,612 66,840
Minneapolis City coordinator City attorney Assistant director, Public Works Finance officer Director, Human Resources Mayor	\$96,257 89,497 86,861 85,712 83,912 71,879	Ramsey County County manager Director, Human Services County attorney Director, Taxation and Records Administ Director, Community Corrections Chair, county board	\$102,762 96,205 93,321 ration 90,240 87,012 42,196
Rochester General manager, Utilities City administrator Director, Public Works Police chief Director, Employee Relations Mayor	\$94,197 91,046 81,000 78,300 75,186 25,626	State Medical director, state hospital Governor Chancellor, Higher Education Board State university president Finance commissioner Administration commissioner	\$156,892 109,056 103,607 103,600 78,509 67,505

Salaries for state department commissioners are typically lower than salaries for top administrative positions in large local government jurisdictions.

Note: Only the top paid position in a particular category was chosen. For example, even though several attorney or doctor positions may be paid more than any other position in another category, only one attorney or one doctor position was selected.

Source: Minnesota Department of Employee Relations

Mounting infrastructure needs

Many of the state's public roads, sewers, schools and other infrastructure systems will need major investments in the near future just to be maintained. In 1992, cities, counties and townships spent nearly \$1.3 billion on capital expenditures, most of which went for infrastructure. Schools and interstate highways built during the 1950s and 1960s are aging and deteriorating.

Water supply and wastewater treatment systems, schools and highways must be upgraded to meet current standards and expanded to accommodate population growth and redistribution. Some facilities only require minor repairs; for others, years of deferred maintenance dictate the need for complete reconstruction.

School districts face crowding and aging buildings

Annual capital expenditures and debt payments on school construction and remodeling increased 10 percent per student from 1981 to 1993 and continue to make up 10 percent of total school spending. More students, aging buildings and numerous other factors will keep capital spending high through 2001. Minnesota's \$10 billion worth of public school facilities are in better condition than those in many other states. Repair and maintenance needs are high, however. Schools deferred maintenance spending during the 1970s and 1980s. The Minnesota Department of Education estimated in 1993 that it would cost \$1.5 billion to correct all deficien-

Schools spent \$50 million in 1993 upgrading buildings to meet state fire and federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements. New federal indoor air quality regulations may soon add more costs. Elevators, ramps and other accessibility features required by the federal Americans With Disabilities Act drew \$32 million in property tax levies in 1994. ADA-related school spending is expected to total another \$100 million by 1999.

Enhancing school programs for science, computers, special education and girls' athletics, increasing state standards for classroom square footage and wiring buildings for computer and telecommunications networks add to infrastructure needs. The Department of Education estimates that total spending through school bond issues will be \$550 million per year for the next five years.

More offenders lead to need for more jails and prisons

More arrests, more convictions and longer sentences mean more inmates in Minnesota jails and prisons. Spending for the corrections system swelled by more than 20 percent between 1984 and 1990. The total bill in 1990, including the state prison system, local jails and probation, reached almost \$296 million.

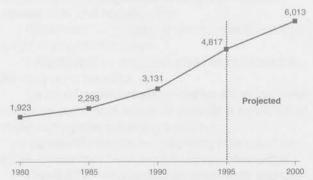
Based on the most recent prison population projections, the Department of Corrections anticipates a shortage of more than 380 beds by June 1997. Even after completion of an 800-bed facility in 1999, the state will be short about 340 beds in 2002. The new facility is expected to cost up to \$100 million to build and about \$30 million a year to operate. Converting regional treatment centers to prisons and expanding existing facilities will help hold down the cost of new space.

Local jail overcrowding has eased due to increasing statewide capacity, but some counties still do not have enough room. Hennepin County, for example, is planning a new jail with an additional 400 beds that is expected to cost about \$160 million to build and \$29 million to operate each year. Other counties also plan to build or expand jail space.

Aging roadways and congestion plague transportation systems

A recent study found that 35 percent of Minnesota's roads — typically designed to last 20 years - were more than 50 years old. The interstate system is 30 years old. More than 10 percent of the state's trunk highway system bridges over 20

Minnesota Adult Prison Population Climbs Year-End Totals



Note: Data does not include prisoners who are housed for other states. Source: Minnesota Department of Corrections

feet long are deficient, and more than 20 percent of the system is restricted to less than 10 tons per axle in the spring. The Minnesota Department of Transportation says more than \$28 billion will be needed to meet "full-service needs" for the next 20 years.

Investments in airports, highway and other transit systems further add to costs. In 1981, Minnesota had fewer miles of heavily congested roads than the national average. By 1992, it had more. More than 35 percent of its urban interstate and 40 percent of other urban freeways are heavily congested.

Extending transit services to 15 new counties per year to serve elderly people and people with disabilities would require an annual investment of \$3.7 million. Annual service improvement needs, including increased security, for Twin Cities bus systems are estimated at \$15.6 million. Minor capital improvement needs total \$25 million. Costs of major transit projects are much higher - \$682 million in capital costs and \$18.3 million in annual costs for light rail in the central and south Interstate 35W corridors. A new Twin Cities airport could cost up to \$4 billion.

Sewer and water needs require major government investments

From 1967 through the early 1990s, more than \$1.2 billion in state and federal funds were granted to Minnesota communities for wastewater treatment projects needed to meet state and federal stan-

These grants have been replaced by loans. Current loan requests for such projects through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority exceed \$100 million. Requests for storm water project loans are estimated at \$5 million to \$10 million per year.

Debt and loan payments place greater financial burdens on communities than grants and can be particularly difficult to bear for communities with aging and dwindling populations. Of the 543 cities answering a recent Pollution Control Agency questionnaire, 151 identified a need for specific wastewater projects. The costs of these projects are more than many of these communities can reasonably be expected to afford.

Atwater's municipal wastewater needs are estimated at more than \$2.5 million, for example, while its fiscal capacity is only \$300,000. A 10-year, nointerest loan would require annual payments of \$255,000 — nearly the equivalent of the city's current tax capacity. Issuing bonds to finance the improvement would further increase annual costs. Average per capita spending on interest for all cities, adjusted for inflation, increased 92 percent between 1970 and 1992, more than any other category of spending.

Making Tough Choices

Minnesota state and local governments must change the way they raise and spend money.

Taxpayer discontent already has forced government to scrutinize spending decisions. The 1994 Legislature passed a budgeting reform law designed to push governments to make spending decisions within the limits of what taxpayers are willing to spend. Often called the "price of government" law, it requires that each budget year, the Governor recommend the maximum percentage of personal income that should be collected over the next four years to pay for state and local government services. The Legislature must in turn adopt a targeted percentage of personal income to guide its expenditure and taxation decisions. The target must cover both tax revenues and revenues from fees.

If total government revenues and expenditures, as a percentage of personal income, are never allowed to rise, government spending can grow no faster than personal income. Government spending can grow faster only if the Governor and the Legislature agree to let taxes and fees rise to a higher percentage of personal income.

The need to choose

The growth in Minnesota state and local government spending will outpace the anticipated rise in personal income if current trends continue. Minnesota governments will have to aggressively restrain spending growth unless a larger share of taxpayers' income is devoted to public services.

Minnesotans already pay more taxes and fees than residents of most states. Excluding federal aid, Minnesota ranks sixth in the per capita amount of state and local revenue raised in 1990. Minnesota's revenue raising also is high compared to personal income. It ranks seventh in total state and locally raised revenues as a percentage of personal in-

The projected eight-year cumulative gap of \$2.5 billion is equivalent to \$1,000 for every working Minnesotan — \$125 per worker per year. The gap is between 1 and 2 percent of total state and local government spending. However, much greater reductions than this will be necessary in some program areas because large parts of state and

local government spending cannot be easily reduced under current federal and state laws.

No single program can supply the kind of savings needed. The \$600 million gap expected for the biennium ending in 1999 is imposing when compared to current biennial state appropriations for several large programs:

- \$200 million for the entire community college
- \$494 million for special education programs
- \$303 million for Aid to Families with Dependent Children
- \$277 million for operating correctional institutions

The causes of the expected cumulative gap are deep-seated and long-term. Good economic times in the short-term will not make it go away. Minnesota has a budget reserve fund to protect against cash-flow problems that has served its purpose well. According to the Department of Finance's November forecast, this reserve will be depleted by the biennium ending in fiscal year 1999.

Balancing goals and resolving issues

In responding to this looming gap, Minnesotans will have to decide how to balance a number of public policy goals and resolve some underlying issues, including:

Accountability - holding elected officials responsible for their taxing and spending decisions.

Equity — attempting to soften the effects of large economic disparities among individuals, households and communities.

Efficiency — producing services with minimum effort or use of resources.

Investment — incurring short-term expenses for long-term benefits.

Level of government — determining the level of government best suited to provide a service and make taxing and spending decisions.

Competitiveness — balancing taxes and services to maintain Minnesota's competitive edge.

Flexibility — designing governments and programs adaptable to a rapidly changing environment.

Options for bridging the gap

To bridge the gap, Minnesotans will have to make hard choices. Some specific options for closing the gap are outlined below. The list is not meant to be exhaustive and is not a set of recommendations. Instead, it illustrates possible directions Minnesotans could take.

Broadly, Minnesota's options include:

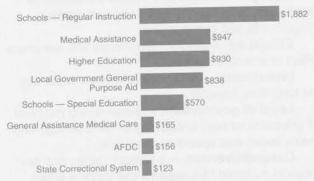
- Change types, levels and delivery of services
- Target eligibility for government services
- Redefine standards
- Control input costs and invest in technology
- Target government infrastructure investments

Each broad option for controlling spending includes specific examples. Under the option "target eligibility," examples include how money might be saved in health, elementary and secondary education, higher education and local government aid. The options are intended to spark debate and to generate more options and creative combinations.

Change types, levels and delivery of services

Government may not be able to afford to provide the same level of service or use the same methods it did five or 10 years ago if Minnesota expects to close the budget gap. Society is constantly changing, and government must adjust its mix of services and its ways of financing and deliv-

Comparison of Spending for Major Programs State Funds in Millions in Fiscal Year 1993



Note: Spending for special education includes state and local funds; regular classroom instruction includes state, local and some federal funds. Sources: Minnesota departments of Finance, Education and Human Services

ering them to respond to these changes, just as successful businesses change their methods and offerings. Minnesota could:

- Reduce the types and numbers of services that government offers
- Provide financial assistance to citizens to choose their own services in lieu of funding expensive institutions, such as schools
- Limit state funding of local governments to specific priority functions, leaving remaining activities to local discretion or market forces

Accelerate the use of alternative care for elderly people

In-home services can be much cheaper than institutional care. For example, the state's Medical Assistance costs for one nursing home patient average \$10,753, compared to \$3,240 for community-based care. Foster care, in-home services and other alternatives could meet the needs of some elderly people now living in nursing homes. In 1994, an estimated 17 percent of nursing home residents receiving Medical Assistance were capable of functioning in a setting other than a nursing home. Savings generated by accelerating the use of alternative care are estimated at \$50 million over five

Drawbacks include limited availability of alternative care services and affordable and adequate housing for elderly people. Investments in these services and housing might be necessary. Also, people who would not want nursing-home services might seek alternative care, thus increasing the number of people served and pushing up overall costs.

Emphasize prevention and alternatives to incarceration

Preventing only five individuals from committing crimes that would send them to prison for 30 years would save nearly \$4 million in prison costs — the amount appropriated by the 1992 Legislature to establish two of several crime and violence prevention programs. Keeping youth in school, reducing drug and alcohol abuse and creating jobs will go a long way in reducing crime and, ultimately, justice costs.

Using alternatives to prison for nonviolent offenders reduces prison needs and costs. These alternatives include electronic monitoring, community supervision, fines and restitution to victims. Such programs as Sentencing to Service put non-

violent offenders to work on community projects, saving both jail and labor costs while enhancing communities. Anoka County's program for repeat driving-while-impaired offenders sends offenders to jail but also requires them to deal with their substance abuse, perform community service and pay part of the program's cost. These alternatives are not only less expensive but also reinforce offenders' ties to the community.

Focus on cost-effective prevention programs

Spending on prevention often saves money in the long run by avoiding the need for more expensive treatments. A Harvard Center for Risk Analysis study shows that some prevention efforts are more cost-effective than others, while some, such as prenatal care, save more money than they cost. The cost of saving one year of life through influenza vaccinations, for example, is \$141, compared with \$470 by reducing emissions from coal-fired power plants. In comparison, the cost of saving one year of life by widening shoulders on rural roads to five feet from two is \$125,000. Other preventive measures are enormously expensive, such as the \$49 million it would cost for one year of life saved by banning asbestos in sealant tape.

Replace general purpose aid with funding for core services

In fiscal year 1994, state government spent \$969 million on general purpose aid to local governments. However, it is unclear what results were

Estimated Daily Cost per Person of Alternative Sentences



Sources: Minnesota Department of Corrections and Sentencing **Guidelines Commission**

achieved with this money. In the future, state government should define its core activities with measurable outcomes and focus funding accordingly. For those services that are not core to state government activities and therefore not funded, local governments could choose to raise taxes to pay for them.

If revenues were raised at the same level of government at which they are spent, local officials would be more accountable for their actions. Equity would be maintained by ensuring that all residents receive a certain level of basic services.

Target eligibility for government services

Expanded eligibility and participation are two factors behind increased spending for public schools, higher education, health, nursing-home care and other programs. Much public support is targeted to low-income Minnesotans. But some is spread among citizens of all income levels. Thousands of middle-class citizens are taking advantage of higher education aid and subsidies, and early childhood and community education programs. Many are receiving medical assistance payments for elderly parents and catastrophic medical bills. Irrespective of need, most property tax relief is given broadly to all local governments and individuals through local government aid and homestead and agriculture credits.

Limiting eligibility is one approach to containing costs. However, some universal programs are more

Estimated Cost to Save One Year of Life

<\$0
\$141
\$2,236
\$2,706
\$3,082
\$4,878,228

Note: Cost per year of life saved is determined by dividing the cost of an intervention by the average number of years saved when death is

Source: Harvard Center for Risk Analysis

cost-effective than targeting aid. For example, universal vision and hearing screening of children can prevent big, expensive problems later on. In considering the options, Minnesotans must ask who should be eligible for direct government assistance and indirect subsidies.

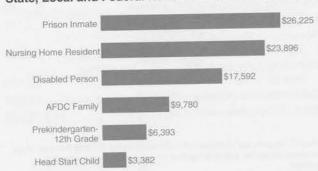
Promote personal responsibility for nursing home costs

The percentage of nursing home beds paid for by the state through Medical Assistance has been increasing as private-paying residents have been decreasing. The growth in the state's share of these costs from 1989 to 1992 raised the state's bill for nursing home care by more than \$31 million. About 36 percent of nursing home residents paid their own way in 1988 compared to 29 percent in 1992. If the proportion of private-paying residents remained the same in 1992 as 1988, the state would have spent an estimated \$16 million less for nursing home care

Options for promoting personal responsibility for nursing home costs include requiring or encouraging long-term care insurance. Some states have considered providing tax deductions for premiums to encourage individuals to purchase policies. Longterm care insurance, however, is often not available to people age 85 and older, who tend to have the greatest need for this care.

Another option is to tighten controls on asset transfers and boost their enforcement. Financial planners often advise elderly people to transfer assets to their heirs before they need nursing home care, thus avoiding the requirement to spend down their resources before becoming eligible for Medical

Comparison of Annual Spending State, Local and Federal Revenues in Fiscal Year 1993



Notes: Annual per person spending for nursing homes and disabled people represents Medical Assistance costs. The AFDC figure includes

Sources: Minnesota departments of Corrections, Human Services, Health and Education

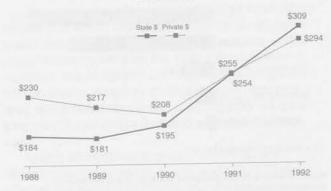
Assistance. As a result of legislation passed in 1993, the state will not cover nursing home costs if assets have been transferred within 30 months for direct transfers and 60 months for transfers in trusts. While data on the expected savings from this legislation is not available, increasing the number of private payers by a mere 100 would cut more than \$1 million from the state's annual \$320 million bill for nursing home care.

Tie funding of special education to measurable outcomes

Minnesota has made a major commitment to fostering the development of children with disabilities and preschool children. Investments in preschool, special education, Head Start and other efforts have been significant. Spending on special education alone was \$602 million in 1993. State government and local school districts provide 95 percent of this funding. However, little evaluation has been made of the effectiveness of these programs in improving children's self-sufficiency, learning and work force readiness. The state could tie funding for programs to measurable outcomes and results as a way of controlling spending. State government also could change state laws and request federal waivers to permit flexibility in addressing needs of children.

Beginning in fiscal year 1997, if the annual growth rate of special education spending were reduced from the recent rate of about 4 percent above inflation to 2 percent above inflation, an estimated \$15 million could be saved in 1997, increasing to \$76 million saved in 2001.

Private and State Payments for Nursing Homes in Millions



Note: Federal dollars not included. Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services

To contain rapid increases in special education spending, options might include:

- Defining legislatively "appropriate education" for students with various disabilities
- Requiring outside assessment and classification of students
- Having parents or nonschool sources pay for noneducational support services

Increase students' share of higher education costs

Minnesota could reduce higher education spending by either raising tuition or lowering the income level above which students become ineligible for state financial assistance. Raising tuition would raise the student share of higher education costs. Making financial aid available only to lowerincome students would raise costs for higher-income students. Targeting aid more heavily to lower-income students is consistent with recommendations recently adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Board. Public costs also might be reduced by limiting the number of terms students can receive aid or raising tuition for such programs as applied graduate degrees. In 1994, the University of Minnesota estimated savings of \$9.4 million per year by eliminating subsidies for applied graduate programs.

Tuition and fees for a liberal arts freshman at the University of Minnesota increased nearly 45 percent from 1982 to 1994. However, costs still remain below those of many comparable institutions in other states and significantly below those of private institutions. If the university raised its resident tuition of \$3,391 by nearly one-third to match Michi-

Big 10 Universities **Undergraduate Annual Tuition and Fees** for 1993 Residents

Michigan	\$5,119	Indiana	\$2,988
Penn State	4,822	Ohio State	2,940
Michigan State	4,470	Purdue	2,696
Illinois	3,506	Wisconsin	2,540
Minnesota	3,391	Iowa	2,352

The average tuition for private colleges in Minnesota was \$12,919 in 1993.

Source: University of Missouri and Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board

gan State's \$4,470, students would pay about \$30 million more of the cost, assuming an undergraduate student population of 32,400. However, if fewer students can afford postsecondary education, Minnesota will have a less educated populace.

Tie local aid to financial need and revenue-raising capacity

Tying homestead, agricultural and other general-purpose state aid to financial need would be more equitable and efficient than the current aid system, because it would base aid on ability to pay. It could lead, however, to increases in property taxes and local fees, if communities decide to provide more service.

Redefine standards

Many local and state government services are controlled by standards and regulations. Some come with funding, some do not. Some are mandatory, some voluntary. Most regulate processes rather than goals to be achieved.

Some services are tied to dedicated revenues and restrict government's ability to shift funds to more important needs. For example, part of automobile and gasoline taxes are dedicated to state, county and city roads, and the funds cannot be used for any other transit need.

Federal mandates also dictate spending by state and local governments. Such mandates too often are unfunded, inflexible or particularly onerous. Two such new federal mandates Minnesota faces are requirements to:

- Use "crumb rubber," made from shredded tires, in its asphalt mix for roads by 1997 or lose federal funding. Minnesota burns waste tires to generate power, so it may actually have to import old tires to comply. Using crumb rubber will at least double the cost of mix per ton and may reduce pavement performance and life. The cost to the state is estimated to be \$8 million in 1996 and \$10 million in
- Make 5 percent of all state correctional facility cells accessible by wheelchair. Doing this, however, is not cost-effective when less than 5 percent of all inmates in each facility are in wheelchairs. Without this proposed mandate, accessibility efforts could be concentrated on facilities where changes are less costly.

Standards are intended to ensure equity, safety and other goals deemed necessary to promote the

public good. But they can become entrenched and go unchallenged, resulting in unnecessary expense. To reduce spending, Minnesota could:

- Eliminate or reduce certain standards and regulations
- Allow for flexibility in meeting requirements
- Shift from regulating inputs and processes to defining desired outcomes and results

For example, the Minnesota Long-term Care Commission made several recommendations to reduce regulations and save \$35.7 million over the next four years. These savings would result by removing standards, including new food service regulations, and allowing such activities as nonnursing staff feeding patients and physicians visiting patients on flexible schedules.

Give schools more flexibility to meet personnel needs

A total of \$1.9 billion was spent for licensed instructional staff salaries in fiscal year 1993. The state could make licensure requirements more flexible for teachers, administrators and other professionals. This would allow small schools to more efficiently use teachers across grade levels and subjects, along with having more college-level teachers, scientists, artists, writers and other professionals as visiting or permanent staff. This change also could make possible greater use in the schools of community social workers and counselors. In addition, the state should remove insurance and collective bargaining barriers that limit parents' participation and after-hours activity in schools.

Place a moratorium on further increases in criminal sentences and evaluate sentencing practices

Public pressure to get tough on crime and criminals has moved policy-makers to lengthen penalties and step up justice system activities at great cost over the last five years. This emphasis will continue to strain the corrections system. The Department of Corrections anticipates a shortage of 340 prison beds by 2002, a figure that assumes current laws and sentencing practices. If future policy changes occur to the extent they did in the last decade, Minnesota could need a new 500-bed prison every biennium after 1999. Each facility will cost about \$50 million to build and up to \$20 million a year to

operate. Expanding existing correctional facilities will cost \$20 million each biennium.

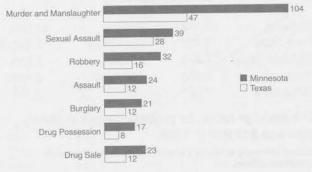
Contrary to the popular perception that Minnesota's justice system is lenient, offenders serve longer sentences here than in most other states. A national comparison compiled by the Sentencing Guidelines Commission shows that offenders in Minnesota serve more time in prison than they do in the 34 states responding to the survey. Texas is seen as a tough state on crime and criminals, for instance, but Minnesota criminals actually serve more time in prison than their Texas counterparts — in some cases, more than twice as long for the same crime.

Extensive policy changes have added expenses without reducing crime rates. As a result, the Sentencing Guidelines Commission will be recommending to the 1995 Legislature a proposal to increase sentences for violent crimes but cut them for more frequently occurring but less violent offenses, such as theft, burglary and some drug crimes. Long-term prison sentences would be limited to violent and repeat offenders; less expensive alternatives would be used for less violent criminals.

Reduce right-of-way, lane width and other highway standards

The \$28 billion bill to meet "full-service needs" on Minnesota's roads could be lowered by reducing standards, particularly for lower-volume county, township and municipal roads. Minnesota's highway standards and procedures for determining needs are designed to bring all roads up to uniformly high standards.

Prison Months Served in Texas and Minnesota



Notes: Figures are the median prison time served in Texas in 1991 compared to the estimated 1991 median time served in Minnesota. Source: Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission and Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council

Minnesota's approach is clearly illustrated by its collectors, those roads that collect and disperse traffic between residential areas and farms and highways used for long-distance travel. The state has less than half the percentage of miles of unpaved rural collectors as the average in other midwestern states — 21 percent unpaved compared to 49 percent. More than 85 percent of Minnesota's urban collector roads have lanes that are at least 12 feet wide, compared to 30 percent for other midwestern states.

An estimated 21,695 miles of the county stateaid highway system do not meet current state standards. Upgrading these roads will cost \$5.3 billion. Studies show that reducing standards for specific projects could save from one-half of 1 percent to 5 percent, or between \$26 million and \$265 million, on county state-aid highways alone. In addition, low-volume roads that are not up to standards could be left with current dimensions, weight limits and surface materials. Nearly 66 percent of the state's rural collectors - totaling 27,406 miles of roadway — have traffic volumes of less than 500 vehicles per day.

High standards are partly motivated by safety concerns. However, vehicle safety features, reduced speed limits and other factors beyond road condition and design also influence safety.

Limit environmental standards and requirements

Minnesota has moved aggressively to identify and solve environmental problems and is ahead of many states in meeting and going beyond federal requirements. In the past year, the state committed \$9 million to the Reinvest in Minnesota and wetland preservation programs and \$20 million to nonpoint source pollution control loans. Some state actions. such as the Wetland Conservation and Shoreland Management acts, place requirements and costs on local governments as well. For example, Minnesota counties and cities spend an estimated \$5 million annually to comply with state shoreland management regulations.

Minnesota could limit its efforts and seek waivers from federal requirements. This approach, however, has risks. The Institute for Southern Studies recently found that states with the best environmental records also offer the best job opportunities and climate for long-term economic growth. The study used 20 environmental and 20 economic indicators. Minnesota ranked seventh on the environmental list and second on the economic one.

Control input costs and invest in technology

Once governments decide what services will be provided and to whom, they must decide how they will be provided. Public agencies either assemble the labor, machinery, equipment, land, buildings and services they need to deliver the service, or they arrange to purchase the service and have it delivered by another organization.

The cost of providing public services is based on two factors:

- The cost of the labor (salaries and benefits), equipment and other inputs
- The productivity, or output, of the agency for each unit of resources put into the services

To control costs, governments can hold down or reduce the costs of public employee salaries and benefits and use market forces to buy products and services more cheaply. Collective bargaining agreements and state and federal requirements to pay prevailing wages, however, can inhibit change and savings.

Governments also can cut costs by adopting new technologies to increase productivity. New technologies require upfront investments but can yield substantial long-term savings. Investments could be made in such things as electronic surveillance systems that would allow offenders with a low security risk to be kept under house arrest; interactive televisions, computer networks and other learning technologies that would help schools increase offerings without adding staff; and technology that would permit specialists to evaluate medical needs without face-to-face contact with patients. A major study by the Arthur Little consulting firm recently projected national public and private savings from such medical technology at \$36 billion annually, suggesting that savings for Minnesota might be in the hundreds of millions of

Contain public employee health-care costs through purchasing pools and managed care

Health-care costs are the largest employee benefit expense for schools and a major cost driver for other public agencies. To contain these rapidly escalating costs, all local governments and school districts could participate in purchasing pools, managed care and managed competition. The state reduced the annual rate of increase for its employee health insurance premiums from 14 percent in 1990 to 6 percent in 1992 and 3 percent in 1994, in part through competitive bidding and employee incentives.

Pooled purchasing could be required legislatively or encouraged through financial incentives or penalties or through voluntary compacts. State aid payments could be capped for governmental units not participating in pooled plans and managed care or for units that exceed regional cost ceilings.

Overhaul teachers' salary schedules

School districts could eliminate or reduce the amount of teachers' salary increases that are based on training and experience alone. These increases could be replaced with salary incentives tied to student performance and specific responsibilities. These incentives could be renewable every several years. The state could gradually phase out aid and levies to schools for salary increases tied to training and experience, estimated to be \$120 million in fiscal year 1994. A portion of these funds could be shifted to school-based staff development.

In fiscal year 1993, \$1.9 billion was spent on salaries for licensed instructional staff in Minnesota. If a 5 percent reduction in pay were realized by 2001, it would yield nearly \$100 million annually in savings, some of which would be absorbed by the new incentives. Tens of millions are being spent for regular salary step increases without any consideration of teaching competence or student outcomes. Another \$30 million in state and local funds was spent directly by schools on staff development in 1993.

Many other licensed professions are required to engage in continuing education as a condition of certification, receiving a tax deduction but no additional compensation.

Explore changing public employee pension benefits

Total public employer contributions to employee pension funds were almost \$514 million in 1992. During the same period, state and local governments contributed \$480 million to Social Security for employees.

Career salaried Minnesota state employees retiring at age 65 with 30 years of service receive pensions equal to about 45 percent of their salary,

along with Social Security. Both pensions and Social Security benefits are adjusted annually for inflation, with the adjustment to pensions based in part on investment returns on pension assets.

Governments could take a number of steps to control or reduce spending on employee retirement benefits. One action would be to raise the usual age of retirement.

Another would be to alter how pensions are funded by changing from a defined benefit to a defined contribution plan. Defined benefit plans place all the risk on the employer by guaranteeing a certain level of retirement benefit. Defined contribution plans place more of the risk on the employee because benefits are based on assets in the employee's account on retirement. A combination of these plans also could be used to share the risk between employer and employee.

Other issues that should be examined are fiduciary responsibilities to participants, financial implications of automatic cost-of-living adjustments and increases based on fund performance, effects of early retirement policies, and appropriate employer contribution levels.

Use competitive bidding and private-sector service providers

Cities and states across the nation are using competitive bidding to bring down costs. Unlike past movements to privatize, new approaches cover more services and bring public employees into the bidding. Governments are challenging union wage rates and are forcing public employees to bid against private firms to provide many basic services.

Public employees in Indianapolis won the contract to fill city potholes, with a bid of 27 percent less per ton of asphalt than the city's current costs. Philadelphia cut the costs of running its sludge treatment plant by one-third and New York City saves an estimated \$500 million to \$700 million a year through competitive bidding. Chicago estimates that in 1993, it saved \$4.2 million by privatizing janitorial services and \$2.5 million by privatizing parking at O'Hare Airport.

Capital-intensive projects, such as freeways and bridges, are particularly good candidates for privatization. Private investors can cover upfront costs and recoup them through tolls. Increasingly, governments do not have the funds for such investments.

Target government infrastructure investments

Investments in infrastructure — streets, schools, sewers, public buildings — will continue to exert major demands on Minnesota's governments. In the short run, delaying projects will enable a community to reduce expenditures, particularly in an environment of rising interest rates. Delaying too long, however, might result in the need for extensive rehabilitation when remedial measures might have been adequate.

Continue converting treatment centers to correctional facilities

The residents of Minnesota's eight residential treatment facilities could be housed in four. The four that could be closed have a total operating cost of \$89 million — \$80 million for salaries, \$7 million for current expenses and \$2 million for repairs, replacement and special equipment. However, these facilities employ many people in their communities, making elimination a difficult and costly choice. Converting these to correctional facilities, as is being done at two treatment centers, could save corrections and health care dollars and spare communities the loss of jobs.

Employees of state institutions have special legislative protection. If reductions in client populations lead to reduced staffing needs, an employee must be offered a comparable position elsewhere. If the position is accepted, the state pays relocation costs. If it is rejected, the employee receives \$7,500 in addition to regular termination benefits. If comparable positions are not available, the employee retains the existing position, even though the institution may be overstaffed.

Expand school-choice options to foster learning opportunities

The state and local communities could further develop school-choice options to enhance learning opportunities and reduce costs for new buildings. The state also could make more use of its veto authority over building plans that create unneeded capacity. Possible actions include:

■ Expanding postsecondary, interdistrict and charter school enrollment opportunities

- Leasing private buildings or buildings in neighboring districts
- Creating partnerships with businesses, museums and other institutions to establish work-based learning programs and apprenticeships
- Sharing facilities with cities, libraries, parks departments, social services agencies or colleges to take advantage of excess capacity
- Developing more multidistrict planning and rural magnet schools
- Wiring one-room school houses in isolated rural communities for interactive video and computer networks
- Promoting home-based learning, using computer and video networks to provide access to schools and other learning resources
- Contracting with private schools where there is a shortage of public school capacity
- Using facilities year-round, in split shifts, and in the evenings
- Expanding capacity through scheduling and use of work-based learning and other off-site learning for secondary students

Leasing, contracting and choice options are not necessarily cheaper in the short run. However, they can help districts manage enrollment growth and avoid 20-year commitments to bond payments for buildings that may not be needed when the child population drops.

Reduce capacity in the higher education system

Minnesota could reevaluate its policy of having higher education institutions within easy driving distance of all parts of the state. It could inventory all public campuses to identify excess capacity and merger possibilities. Distance learning via fiber optic networks and satellites now gives students access to high-quality college learning in small learning centers, local public schools or homes, providing an alternative to expensive or underused campuses. A college campus, however, may be key to an area's ongoing economic and cultural development and, therefore, to its population stability and tax base.

The combined state allocation for technical and community colleges and state universities is about \$500 million per year. State allocations in fiscal year 1994 to each of its 18 technical colleges with 34 campuses ranged from \$3 million to \$28 million, with most getting from \$9 million to \$15 million. In the same year, the state's 21 community college campuses got from \$2 million to \$7 million each.

Seven state universities each received from \$11 million to \$42 million.

Net savings from closing or consolidating any of these campuses would be offset somewhat by shifting of students to other campuses and meeting ongoing contractual commitments to employees.

Government structures for the 21st century

Over the last few decades, dramatic changes have occurred in Minnesota's population distribution and its transportation and communication systems. The state's governmental and decision-making structures, however, have changed little. Much of Minnesota's state and local governmental structure dates from the 19th century. Many of its operations were established in the 1920s and 1930s.

About 3,600 general- and special-purpose governments place Minnesota sixth among the states in total number of local units of government. This number translates to one governmental unit for every 12,000 people in Minnesota — outnumbererd only by such sparsely populated states as North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. The number of school districts in Minnesota has declined dramatically — from 8,000 in 1900 to 379 today — due to a series of legislative actions and incentives. The number of counties, cities and town-

ships, however, has remained virtually the same. Many of the state's towns, counties and cities have small and decreasing populations. Nearly two-thirds of all cities in the state have fewer than 1,000 people.

This large number of government units costs money. General government spending — the category most closely associated with the governing function — was one of the fastest growing areas of local government spending between 1970 and 1992. All levels of government had spending increases of 99 percent or more after adjusting for inflation. In 1992, cities spent \$278 million, counties \$435 million and townships \$24 million.

The number of townships, cities and counties, and their current structures and responsibilities might not be appropriate or adequate to respond to the state's needs in the 21st century.

Minnesota also ranks high in number of state legislators and lobbyists. With 201 legislators, it ranks fifth among the states and is more than 25 percent above the median state. It ranks sixth in the number of lobbyists with 1,480. Lobbying, either by employees or by contract, cost local units of government more than \$2.3 million in 1993. This was in addition to the estimated \$1.1 million to \$3.4 million spent by local units of government for lobbying services provided by some 30 government associations, such as the School Board Association, League of Cities and Association of Counties.

Closing the Gap

Minnesota's governments at all levels — the state, counties, cities, townships, school districts and special districts — should begin to work toward closing the budget gap by taking immediate steps in four broad areas.

Define activities crucial to the well-being of the state

State government should evaluate its roles and responsibilities to define the core activities needed to meet citizens' needs. Funding should be focused on providing basic services for these core activities. Counties, cities and special-purpose units of government should do similar evaluations. Specific areas for state action include:

Prekindergarten through secondary education — State responsibility and funding should focus on core activities necessary for students to achieve graduation standards. Schools should have discretion in funding facilities, administration and enrichment or extracurricular activities.

Local government aid — The state should identify core services and basic levels of service. These could include such things as essential police and fire protection services. Aid should be targeted to ensure equal access to these services.

Build more flexibility into programs and requirements

Traditionally, laws and regulations have dictated what state and local governments must do and how they must do it. This rigid approach can stifle efforts to find cheaper, more efficient ways of providing services and reaching objectives. It also can restrict governments' ability to meet the public's changing needs and circumstances. Flexibility is needed in:

Federal mandates — The state should aggressively pursue waivers from federal mandates affecting state and local governments.

Local government mandates — Costs of state-imposed mandates should be controlled by giving local governments greater flexibility in implementation. Laws should be changed to remove mandates or make it easier for local governments to obtain waivers and try innovative approaches.

Dedicated funds — All funds should be reevaluated and modified, as necessary. Funds
should focus on desired outcomes. For example,
Minnesota's constitutional dedication of tax revenues from motor vehicles and fuels for highway
purposes should be relaxed. This dedication and
other restrictions on the use of revenues inhibit the
state's ability to pursue the least costly transportation alternatives and adapt its transportation
systems to changing needs.

Licensing requirements — Rigid requirements can stifle innovation and increase costs. Licensing standards in such fields as medicine, social services and education should be reviewed and changed as appropriate. For example, along with defining outcomes in education, the state should relax teacher licensure requirements. This will give school districts the ability to use staff more flexibly and use community resources and technology to meet needs.

Focus on the most cost-effective approaches

State and local governments should focus on preventing problems and future costs. They also should identify and emphasize the most cost-effective efforts and ways of meeting needs. Governments at all levels should concentrate investments in areas that will result in savings that are greater than program costs. These approaches are needed specifically in:

Alternative care for elderly people — Minnesota should aggressively pursue ways to reduce costly institutionalization of elderly people and explore new means for citizens to finance their own care when they become old.

Crime prevention and alternatives to prison

— The state, counties and cities should focus on crime prevention and alternatives to prison for non-violent offenders. These alternatives, such as restorative justice, are less expensive and require offenders to give something back to society through community service and restitution to victims.

Contain costs of government operations and programs

All governmental units should work to contain and reduce the costs of services they provide. Controlling the growth of public employee salaries and benefits will be important, as will evaluating the full costs and effects of laws. Approaches to containment should include:

Employee health care — All local governments and school districts should participate in purchasing pools and managed competition.

Salaries — All governmental units should take steps to hold total payroll and benefit cost increases to no greater than the rate of inflation and population growth. They further should limit automatic increases not based on outcomes. For example, school districts should eliminate or reduce the amount of teachers' salary increases that are based on training and experience alone.

Moratorium on program expansions — Minnesota governments should hold the line on eligibility and services. Specifically, the state should freeze further increases in sentences to control justice system costs.

Competitive bidding — All governments in Minnesota should expand the use of competitive bidding to contain and reduce the costs of services. More services, including those provided by government employees, should be subject to competitive bidding. Public employees should bid along with the private sector for service contracts.

Closing the gap will require citizens and policymakers to reconsider long-held beliefs about government's role and responsibilities and to work together to achieve the future envisioned in *Minne*sota Milestones.

Appendix

Glossary

Below are definitions of some terms used in this report.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children — Half-funded by the federal government, AFDC provides money to low-income families with children.

alternative care — home or community-based care to help elderly or disabled people live independently; an option to placement in institutions.

biennium — a two-year budget period for state government. Each biennium includes two fiscal years.

consumer price index — a measure of the average change in prices over time for goods and services; often used to measure and adjust for inflation.

criminal justice system — includes law enforcement agencies; judicial, prosecution, public defense and associated legal activities; and corrections.

defined benefit plan — a retirement plan that guarantees a certain benefit amount upon retirement. Both employee and employer contributions may vary from year to year.

defined contribution plan — a retirement plan based strictly on contributions that does not guarantee a specified amount at retirement. Employer contributions are usually a set percentage of salary or a match of the employee's contribution up to a certain level.

dependent population — people younger or older than the usual working age; for purposes of this report, people younger than 16 or 65 and older.

entitlements — programs, such as Social Security, AFDC and Medical Assistance, that provide benefits to people who meet eligibility criteria. Entitlement programs often have uncapped, open-ended budgets.

fiscal year — a 12-month budget period for governments. Most local governments have fiscal years beginning in January and ending in December, but state government and school districts have fiscal years beginning in July and ending in June.

General Assistance — GA is a state program that provides money to low-income people who are not employable.

General Assistance Medical Care — a statefunded program that pays for health care for low-income people who are not eligible for Medical Assistance.

general purpose aid — state grants to local governments that can be used for any purpose.

intergovernmental transfers — grants and aid paid by one level of government to another, such as state aid to local governments.

local government aid — now called aid to cities, LGA is general purpose aid that the state distributes to cities and townships.

long-term care — health care, personal care, social services and, sometimes, food and lodging provided to elderly or disabled people living in nursing homes, group homes, institutions or at home.

managed competition — the practice of purchasers of health care or government regulators requiring insurers and health care providers to compete for business based on price and quality.

managed care — an organization of medical care insurers or providers that sets standards for care and seeks to reduce costs by providing comprehensive services to prepaid members.

mandates — requirements in statutes, rules, policies or procedures applying to state and local governments that, if not complied with, can result in civil liability, criminal penalty, substantial economic sanctions such as loss of funding, or severe administrative sanctions such as closure or refusal to license a facility or program.

Medical Assistance — MA pays health care providers for care of elderly or disabled people or families with limited income and assets. The federal government pays 55 percent of the costs, while the state picks up the balance.

MinnesotaCare — a state program to provide subsidized basic health insurance coverage for otherwise uninsured Minnesotans.

property tax relief — state payments to local governments, in the form of local government aid and homestead and agricultural credit aid, or to individuals, as circuit breaker and targeted tax relief payments, to lower property tax burdens.

social services — a Census Bureau expenditure category that includes such programs as AFDC; payments to health care providers for people with low incomes or limited assets; and expendi-

tures for state and local hospitals and other services to support needy people; as well as expenditures for public and environmental health.

special education — a federally required program entitling people younger than age 22 with disabilities to appropriate education and related support services.

tax capacity — the dollar amount arrived at when a property's market value determined by the assessor is multiplied by the classification rate specified in statute for the property type.

Fiscal year technical note

All fiscal years in this report are designated by the year in which the fiscal year ended. For example, state government's fiscal year 1993 refers to the budget period beginning in July 1992 and ending in June 1993. School districts have similar fiscal years, but most local governments' fiscal years begin in January and end in December.

This difference in fiscal years makes difficult the tabulation of total state and local revenues or expenditures. This report generally uses the U.S. Census Bureau's *Government Finance* series for this purpose. The most recent final report in this series is *Government Finance*: 1990-91, which covers fiscal years ending between July 1990 and June 1991. Data from this Census Bureau report is called 1990 data in *Within Our Means*. Similarly, data from the 1967-68 report is referred to as 1967 data.

Estimating future revenues and expenditures

Within Our Means projects revenues and expenditures for each biennium through fiscal year 2005. The resulting gaps between revenues and expenditures are smaller than those included in the revenue and expenditure outlook released by the Department of Finance in December 1994. The major difference between this report's estimates and the Department of Finance outlook is this report's assumption that revenues will remain a constant percentage of personal income. The Finance Department forecast is based on current laws which

would result in revenues declining slightly as a percentage of personal income.

The revenue projections are based on forecasts of Minnesota personal income. The expenditure projections are based on expected change in demand for state and local government services; these projections are largely the result of changing client populations. Projections of revenue assume constant effort relative to personal income, while projections of expenditures assume current law and programs.

At the end of each year projected, expenditures are reduced to bring them in balance with projected revenues. Trust funds, including health care access, are dedicated funds, which are not available for balancing the budget. Eighty percent of family support, 87 percent of health and 50 percent of transportation are not available for balancing. Reductions to balance the budget are taken across the board among the remaining funds, according to their relative share of the total budget subject to cuts.

Revenues include both state and local tax and nontax revenues. Transfer payments from the federal government to state and local governments are not included. Some local government enterprise activities, such as municipal golf courses, swimming pools and liquor stores, are not included. The definition of revenues in this report is consistent with that used by the Minnesota Department of Revenue, as reported in *Local Government Revenue Estimates*, *December 1994*.

Expenditures include direct general expenditures of state and local governments — the state, counties, cities, townships, school districts and special districts. Excluded from expenditures are intergovernmental transfers, such as state aid to local school districts, and spending for enterprise activities that also are excluded on the revenue side.

Projected revenues are assumed to be constant at 18.4 percent of Minnesota total personal income. This proportion is the 1995 percentage reported in the *December 1994 Forecast* by the Minnesota Department of Finance.

Minnesota personal income from 1995 through 1999 is from page 48 of the *December 1994 Fore-cast*. Minnesota personal income from 2000 through 2005 is projected from the DRI/McGraw-Hill long-term forecasts published in summer 1994. The average annual rate of change in the long-term projection for the cycle-long series of real total personal income for 1999 through 2018 was used. Since DRI/McGraw-Hill shows a declining rate of real national growth from 1999 through 2018, using

the average annual rate of change from that period for 1999 through 2005 for Minnesota implies a declining real share of national economic growth. This declining share reflects Minnesota's projected slower pace of population and labor force growth. The calculation results in a real growth rate for personal income of 1.82 percent per year.

DRI/McGraw-Hill forecasts project Minnesota's inflation-adjusted personal income to grow less than 2 percent annually after 2000, the slowest rate since 1950. State and local government revenue will rise about 4 percent annually between 1995 and 1999, compared to an annual growth rate of nearly 7 percent between 1991 and 1995.

Expenditure projections for 1996 through 1999 assume a constant relationship between state and local government spending. State government expenditure estimates from the December 1994 Forecast for the bienniums beginning in 1996 and in 1998 were adjusted by subtracting transfers to local governments. The resulting estimate of state government-only spending was divided by 0.31 to yield state and local government spending exclusive of transfers from the federal government for each of the two bienniums. The factor 0.31 was calculated from the 1992 U.S. Census Bureau estimate of Minnesota state and local government expenditures. The factor is the state portion of total state and local direct general expenditures minus transfers from the federal government, utilities and municipal liquor stores.

Expenditure projections for 2000 through 2005 were prepared for 10 specific categories of government spending, plus an "all other" category: higher education, elementary and secondary education, justice, family support, health care, residential health care facilities, transportation, health care access and other trust funds. The intent was to capture the effects of demographic and related changes on the demand for the specific categories. Constant laws and policies were assumed. For each category, annual real rates of change from 1999 through 2005 were applied to estimated 1999 levels.

Higher education estimates were based on the enrollment effects of an increasing number of high school graduates and young adults from 2000 through 2005, dampened by declines in numbers of people in their late 20s and early 30s. Population projections by age in 2000 and 2005 were applied to higher education participation rates for 1990 to project enrollments in 2000 and 2005. The average annual rate of change for this period was added to the annual average change in real expenditures per student from 1984 through 1992, yielding the as-

sumed annual increase of 1.57 percent in higher education expenditures.

Rates of change for elementary and secondary education were based on projected changes in enrollments by year plus an additional increase of 1.5 percent per year in real spending per student. The rate of increase in real spending per student reflects the average from 1987 through 1993. Resulting real rates of change were 1.96 percent for 1999 to 2000, 1.73 percent for each year from 2000 through 2002, 1.62 percent in 2003, 1.39 percent in 2004 and 1.38 percent in 2005. The slowing rate of growth is due to declining rates of increase in enrollments through 2003 and actual declines in 2004 and 2005.

Justice system expenditures also assume current laws and their implications for facilities. The projection for justice spending was the sum of separate projections for law enforcement, judicial and legal services, local correctional facilities and state facilities. The projections indicate a real increase of 11.53 percent in the biennium beginning in fiscal year 2000, 11.92 percent in the biennium beginning in 2002 and 12.34 percent in the biennium beginning in 2004. Spending for courts is not broken down between civil and criminal cases; thus, an exact accounting of the cost of criminal cases cannot be made.

Family support includes the state and county components of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Aid to Families with Dependent Children child care, Minnesota Family Investment, General Assistance, Work Readiness and Minnesota Supplemental Aid. An annual real growth of 1.88 percent in family support was assumed, based on the projected change in single-parent families from 2000 through 2005.

Health care includes Medical Assistance, Alternative Care, General Assistance Medical Care and the Chemical Assistance Medical Care Entitlement. The real rate of change for these programs was assumed at the real rate of change from 1994 through 1999 of 10.01 percent.

State residential health care facilities were projected separately, with a zero rate of real change assumed.

Transportation includes state highways, airports, water transport, transit subsidies, local streets and roads, and other related expenses. Transportation was assumed to grow at a real annual rate of 1.23 percent, based on analysis of historical trends from 1970 to 1992.

Health care access, such as MinnesotaCare, is a relatively new program that is growing rapidly. The projected real rate of growth from 2000 through

2005 is assumed to be at the 1998-through-1999 level of 3.5 percent per year. This subdued rate of growth assumes that the program will continue to serve only a limited proportion of the uninsured population. The program currently serves families with children below 275 percent of the federal poverty level plus other households below 125 percent of poverty.

The "other trust funds" category includes trust funds and special revenue funds not related to transportation and health. Those funds are specifically included in their functional category. This category encompasses such funds as the landfill cleanup, petroleum tank release, Minnesota Technology Inc. and game and fish funds. The other trust funds were assumed to grow at the rate of household growth. 0.9 percent per year.

"All other expenditures" includes all state and local expenditures, apart from the ones specifically identified above; for example, state and local government administration, parks and recreation, natural resources management and other similar activities. This category accounts for 24.5 percent of total government expenditures in 1994 and is assumed to grow only at the rate of household growth, 0.9 percent per year from 2000 to 2005.

DRI/McGraw-Hill projections of inflation, using the gross domestic product price deflator, were added to the projected real rates of growth to compute the nominal values. The inflation rates were 3.1 percent for 2000, 3.2 percent for 2001, 3.3 percent for 2002 and 3.4 percent for each year from 2003 through 2005. These rates are slightly higher than the 2.7 to 3.0 percent forecast for 1996 through 1999, reflecting DRI/McGraw-Hill's belief in a gradual revival in the inflation rate.

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